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Near East & South Asia

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Islamic Journalists Call for Federation

45040133a Jerusalem AL-NAHAR 19 Feb 88 p 7

[Text] The Islamic Press Symposium organized by the Arabic Language Faculty at al-Azhar University has called for the need for attention to the study of the press from an Islamic viewpoint, the creation of a federation for Moslem journalists and encouragement of al-Azhar to agree to the establishment of the Islamic center for media studies at al-Azhar University.

Hafiz Mahmud, the former head of the Egyptian journalists' union, said, "Some people imagine that the Islamic press is a single kind. This is not true. There is a cultural Islamic press, a press for the religious appeal, and an Islamic political press. There is another type of Islamic press, and it saddens me to refer to it; it is the press of trafficking in Islamic affairs.

"As to the Islamic cultural press, that actually exists; in this field there is AL-MANAR magazine. As to the press of the appeal to Islam, we can say that it also is an Islamic cultural press and that it ought to have had an effective role in the mission of the Islamic appeal; however, a number of things have stood in the way of that, among them that the people in charge of these papers most of the time are at a modest educational level concerning Islam and the Islamic appeal, or the mediocrity of the technical production of the Islamic press, which reduces the percentages of distribution, because the reader is normally attracted to a newspaper's production style and technical presentation.

"There also are Islamic political papers. Their initial beginnings were in Egypt, at the hands of Shaykh Muhammad 'Abduh and his mentor, Jamal al-Din al-Afghani, when they issued the magazine AL-'URWAH AL-WUTHQA, which was destined to take precedence in setting forth politics in a purely Islamic manner. If the Islamic press has found fault with this presentation, due to the evolution of many conditions and notions, if we look at Europe we will find that the media in general and the press in particular play a great role in dealing with many of the events and problems which occur on the European stage, since they open their pages to researchers and specialists to offer their statements on behalf of reaching the most appropriate solutions. The press has often played a great role in solving many problems.

"However, in our Islamic world, the situation is different, since there is a state of indifference. The Islamic papers do not offer a remedy, and this in my opinion can be attributed to their lack of competent journalists who can write and analyze from an Islamic notion and point of departure."

A Criticism of the Press

The doyen of the journalists said, "I have a criticism of our Islamic press, not only in Egypt but in our whole Arab world. That is that some daily or weekly papers

allocate a page or several pages to the treatment of religious affairs, not for the sake of Islam and the benefit of the Moslems but for the sake of increasing circulation rates, since some people view the religious material in the paper as a commodity which helps in the marketing. The religious page might be distinguished by a kind of intellectual enrichment, but the effect desired of it soon disappears because if we turn the rest of the pages we will find that the material presented on most of them is harmful to Islam and Moslems.

"If we want to have an Islamic press, it is necessary that all our papers show concern for God in everything they write. When we say that we want to have a homogeneous Islamic press, the modern style of address must be accessible to it, especially addressing the minds of young people, and use must be made of every journalistic article presented. It is not reasonable that we should read an Islamic story or investigation followed by another article which is demeaning. When we are calling for a specialized press, we are calling for one of our rights as Moslems."

The Causes of the Crisis of the Press

Mr Abu Dumah, deputy chief of the religious section in the Cairo newspaper AL-AHRAM, said, "The Islamic press in Egypt is going through a real crisis because of a number of things, among them the problem of quality in religious editors. A number of conditions must be present in a person who undertakes to work in the field of the Islamic press, the most important of which is that he must have a grasp of the principles and teachings of Islam and the dangers surrounding the Islamic world, whether this danger is a material one, in the form of a direct military invasion, or a moral one, to which we give the name intellectual invasion. Unfortunately, most of the people working in the area of the Islamic press are unaware of these things which ought to be the elementary points of the Islamic press.

"The second of these causes is the paucity of space allocated to religious materials presented in the paper, in spite of the diversity and multiplicity of Islamic affairs which it is worth discussing on the pages of the papers.

"The third of these causes is the evasion by the graduates of journalism and media faculties of working in the field of the Islamic press because of the difficulty of it, on the one hand, and the paucity of the space allotted on the other. Therefore they turn to work in the art and sports sections since work there is less difficult than work in the area of religious editing. Also the opportunity for exposure and publicity is greater because of the number of pages."

Guiding Public Opinion

Concerning the role of the press in guiding public opinion, Dr Muhyi-al-Din 'Abd-al-Halim said, "The press is considered a major force in guiding public opinion,

forming it and influencing it. It goes without saying that public opinion is a force of great gravity in our public political, social, cultural and economic life. Not only that, but it also has an effect on our private life and individual conduct. Because of all this, the press has had the credit for the political, economic, social and cultural developments in the modern era in many countries of the world.

"The Islamic press has had a great role in building the modern intellectual resurgence. It has borne the banner of the call to the proper notion of Islam and defense of the Arabic language and resistance of the appeals of Westernization and the intellectual invasion at the beginning of the 20th Christian century.

"There is no doubt that the Islamic press in Egypt is a sector of the Egyptian press and that it has had the greatest effect in guiding the people and defending the Islamic religion, morals, values and the nation."

The Recommendations of the Symposium

At its conclusion the symposium called for the need to devote attention to studying the Egyptian press in general from the Islamic standpoint and the need to work to create a federation for Moslem journalists for the sake of coordinating activity among Islamic press organizations and urging all press organizations in general, and Islamic ones in particular, to commit themselves to honesty and objectivity in regard to all Islamic issues which are dealt with on their pages, devoting themselves to the interests of Islam and the Moslems.

It urged officials at al-Azhar to agree to the establishment of an Islamic center for media studies in al-Azhar for the sake of realizing the preparation of personnel who are qualified in the Islamic sense in a way which will serve the mission of the Islamic press not in Egypt but in the whole Islamic world. 11887

REGIONAL

Three Vie for Chairmanship of Arab African Bank

45000044 Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE in French Mar 88 p 35

[Text] Three North Africans—a Libyan, an Algerian and a Moroccan—are competing for the position of another (a Tunisian) at the head of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (ABEDA). Algeria and Tripoli presented their respective administrators-to-be for this position: Mohammed Terbeche (from the Algerian Ministry of Finance) and Nuri 'Abd-al-Salam Baryum (a lawyer with the Libyan Central Bank). As for Rabat, it has proposed the candidacy of Abdellatif Laraki, president-director general of the national bank.

ABEDA, whose headquarters is in Khartoum (Sudan), has been presided over since its establishment by Chedly Ayari, former Tunisian minister of the national economy. Its capital, which belongs to 18 Arab states, amounts to \$1 billion, of which approximately 70 percent has been paid out in the form of loans to 38 non-Arab African countries. Chedly Ayari's term was renewed for the third time in 1980.

In April 1987, the bank governors ordered an audit by the British firm Ernst and Whinney. On leave since that time, Ayari wrote an extensive counter report and presented it to all the governors on 15 January 1988. The two documents will be examined on 4 April in Muscat (Sultanate of Oman). Ayari is still the bank's president. It was never officially a question of demoting him. The issue of his replacement must, according to ABEDA's regulations, be examined in April of 1989; in effect, one year prior to the end of his term.

Nevertheless, at a time when the idea of a "Greater Maghreb" is being revived, the Algerian, Libyan and Moroccan governments have each presented a candidate to compete with a Tunisian. Moreover, the controversy surrounding Ayari cannot overshadow the Arab-African cooperation crisis.

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

UN Envoy Discusses Closure of PLO Offices

44040155 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
23-29 Mar 88 p 15

[Interview with Zuhdi Labib al-Tarazi, Chief of PLO's UN Mission, by Salih Qallab; date and place not given]

[Text] Zuhdi Labib al-Tarazi, the chief of the PLO mission to the United Nations, is one of the delegates most knowledgeable in this international organization's affairs. In the 14 years he has spent in the U.N. lobbies, al-Tarazi has gained broad experience in how resolutions are taken and how diplomatic battles are waged in the international community.

Al-Tarazi, who heads a delegation comprised of two other diplomats and a number of administrators who constitute the PLO's UN mission, is characterized by Palestinian circles as the "general" of the new Palestinian "front" opened in the wake of issuance of the U.S. resolution providing for closure of the PLO's UN offices.

AL-MAJALLAH contacted al-Tarazi by telephone from London and interviewed him on the latest developments of this issue and on the expected steps in the coming phases. Following is the text of the interview:

[Question] Why has the U.S. Congress issued its resolution to close the PLO offices at this particular time?

[Answer] For a long time, the United States has been trying to omit the Palestinian number from the international equation. The campaign launched by Washington against the PLO, in its capacity as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, is aimed at imposing a solution that disavows our people's national and pan-Arab rights. I stress that the said resolution seeks, moreover, to prevent the PLO from operating in the U.S. and international arenas, especially since the latest developments in the occupied territories' uprising have created the proper climate for U.S. public opinion to become aware of the justness of our cause and of the true Israeli actions and practices.

[Question] The resolution was noticeably issued at a time when it seemed that a new U.S. approach was developing toward the Middle East issue?

[Answer] There is no new U.S. approach toward the Palestinian issue as the crux of the area's conflict. The past, present and foreseeable U.S. approach is to omit the Palestinian factor from the area's equation.

[Question] But there is apparent disagreement within the U.S. administration on closing the PLO offices?

[Answer] There is no fundamental disagreement. It is no more than pretense. The fact is that if there was real disagreement over this issue, the U.S. State Department advisers would not have supported the issuance of this resolution. If the U.S. State Department was well-intentioned, it could have stopped the implementation of this resolution. But because it is not well-intentioned, it has done nothing and it will do nothing practical.

[Question] Shultz has said that the U.S. Congress' resolution is naive. This statement contrasts with what you are saying?

[Answer] This is what Shultz says. I do not judge the U.S. position on the basis of transient statements made by Shultz but on the basis of the official U.S. policies. We are dealing with the U.S. administration's official position. This position is firm, clear and well known. It is a position of hostility to the PLO and to the Palestinian people's just and legitimate rights. Some might think

here that there is disagreement in Israel between Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Shimon Peres on the Middle East situation and the Palestinian issue whereas we consider this disagreement to be very superficial. Essentially, both sides embrace the same position of hostility to the Palestinian people and Palestinian cause. What applies to the Israeli government in this regard also applies to the U.S. administration.

[Question] But you must take advantage of this disagreement, whether within the Israeli government or within the U.S. administration, even if it is only superficial?

[Answer] That is if there is any disagreement. We believe that this alleged disagreement is intended to kick dust in the eyes. As for us, we do not consider the current disagreement a disagreement between us and Washington but between the United States and the international group represented in the United Nations.

[Question] What are the steps you will take from now until a final decision is made on the resolution to close your mission's offices?

[Answer] As I have already said, the problem is now between the United States and the United Nations. Therefore, we will take no steps independently because what Washington has done is aimed not only against us but against the international group. It is also aimed at the credibility of international law and of international treaties. It is well known that the General Assembly has denounced the U.S. step almost unanimously and has stressed that it is essential that the PLO mission be maintained on the basis of the agreement concluded between Washington and the United Nations in 1947.

[Question] We have heard that you will set up a tent within the sanctuary of the United Nations and to stay in it if the U.S. administration implements the said resolution. Is this true?

[Answer] We are prepared for anything. We are the sons of the people whose children are confronting the Israeli tanks with their bodies. However, we say that the Palestinian mission issue is connected with the presence of the United Nations. We will stay here for as long as the United Nations stays here. If the United Nations departs for any other country, then we will depart with it.

[Question] Supposing that the United States implements the closure resolution, how will the Palestinian delegation attend the UN meetings?

[Answer] The problem is not the problem of a delegation or of an individual but the problem of a mission whose presence here is tied to the UN presence. The fate of this mission's presence in New York is tied to the presence of the UN headquarters in this American city.

[Question] Do you have alternatives in case the PLO mission is closed, such as having the Palestinians represented by the Arab League mission?

[Answer] There are no alternatives. We accept no alternatives, not through the Arab League nor through any other party. We are not thinking of joining any other party. The PLO is present here as an independent delegation. Therefore, we reject any effort to undermine this independence.

[Question] This means that you will sleep in the UN offices if you are compelled to?

[Answer] These are secondary problems. The main problem now is that the independence of the United Nations is being put to the test. The United Nations has to either confront the endeavors seeking to undermine this independence or else allow this very serious precedent to jeopardize the future of this international organization.

[Question] Is there a connection between this resolution and closure of the PLO Information Office in Washington a few months ago?

[Answer] Of course, there is a clear and definite connection. I repeat that the U.S. policy of hostility to us and to our people's rights is not a product of the current circumstance. It has been a firm and constant policy for a long time. Therefore, what was done to the PLO Information Office in Washington was a prelude to the latest step taken by the U.S. administration against the PLO's UN mission.

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'Arafat Addresses Religious Aspects of Uprising
44040139 Kuwait AL-MUJTAMA' in Arabic
1 Mar 88 pp 28-30

[Interview with Yasir 'Arafat by Jamal al-Rashid in Kuwait; date not specified]

[Text] [Question] The universal and continuing uprising of the Palestinian people in Palestine took many people by surprise and upset many balances. The world's conscience was moved, and the Palestinian question was restored to its proper framework of a struggle which is perceived to be Muslims' religious duty. Much has been said in the way of analyzing this phenomenon to find out what are its reasons and what is its nature. Much has been said to determine who is responsible for this phenomenon and what its consequences will be. We would like to hear what you have to say about this matter.

[Answer] Let me remind you of something. On 12/9/1987 you delivered to me a statement which I had requested from colleagues representing the Islamic Tendency 48 hours after that crime which was committed just outside the city of Gaza. I said that the PLO had

issued a statement and that we were about to make a new change and effect a shift in the way we do things. I said we wanted supporters of the Islamic Tendency to issue a statement that would make us all appear united. You actually delivered that statement to me at 3:30 a.m., and I took a copy of it to make my own announcement, and you announced that statement in your own way. What does this indicate? It is true that some Arabs did not expect the matter to go so far, but we both did. The statement was issued after our conversation. I am saying this because we must remember that this uprising consisted of one surge of protest after another. The first one came on 10/24/1986 in the aftermath of the tragedy in Sabra, Shatila and al-Burj when our people were forced to eat the flesh of donkeys, cats, dogs, and mice. They had to seek a special religious dispensation on eating human flesh. We asked our people in Palestine to mobilize the masses on a broad scale in a show of support for those steadfast heroes in the camps of Beirut.

Let me also remind you of what happened last year when criminal Zionists tried to desecrate the Holy Mosque in Jerusalem. They tried to pray and build a synagogue there, but the people of Jerusalem stood up to them, continuously opposing that decision which was made by some fanatic rabbis like Kahana, Livinger, Sharon and other such Israeli gangs. Battles were fought inside the Holy Mosque especially after mosque guards used the primitive, simple means they have to protect it. We have approximately 600 guards who take turns guarding the mosque around the clock. Last year four attempts were discovered to blow up the mosque.

Let me also remind you of the violent clashes which occurred last year in Balatah Camp and those which occurred in al-Dahishah Camp between armed settlers from Kiryat Arba and our people in al-Dahishah Camp. Israeli troops were forced to put up a wire fence around the camp and build a concrete wall between the camp and the road used by settlers.

Let me also remind you of the massive demonstrations which met George Shultz when he went to Jerusalem. No Palestinian would agree to meet with him, and that was due to a decision from the Palestinian command that was made because the U.S. administration shut down the PLO office. George Shultz waited at the American Consulate in Jerusalem for one hour and a half, but the only person who showed up was a messenger who delivered the petition protesting U.S. policy.

Let me also remind you of the violent demonstrations which broke out when the Amman Summit was in session. A number of young women who were carrying the Palestinian flag, PLO slogans, and pictures of the Executive Committee chairman lost their lives in those demonstrations.

Let me also remind you that our universities inside the occupied territory—from Gaza to Hebron, Bir Zayt, al-Najah, Jerusalem and Bethlehem—were shut down between 2 and 3 months during the year.

That is why Israeli leaders decided in a meeting for core cabinet members which was held on 11/28/1987 to implement an iron-fist response to the situation. Why was that decision made? Because the uprising had been going on throughout the year, one surge of protest after another throughout our occupied country. We can now say with pride that these masses are continuing their popular revolution. Some fellow Palestinians call it an uprising, but I call it a popular revolution.

[Question] Does this popular revolution have stages?

[Answer] Yes, it does. We are now in the second stage of this popular revolution which we've divided into six stages. Now, we are bent on not using weapons in the popular demonstrations. There are several reasons for that. One of them is we do not want them to take advantage of those demonstrations and carry out massacres like those which happened in Sabra and Shatila. Nor do we want them to say, "We are taking military action in response to a military action."

[Question] Why isn't military action carried out at night or at times and locations that are far away from the rebellious masses?

[Answer] Be patient and I'll tell you. A decision was made in the Military Council, and everyone is committed to it. Military action must be carried out outside the areas of the uprising. Over the past 3 weeks we carried out 25 operations in which Palestinians and their Lebanese allies launched rockets from south Lebanon. These operations do not include the ones in Kishun, in the refinery and in the ammunitions plant, which we blew up. They do not include operations in south Lebanon, Hebron, and in other locations—even in Nahariya—during which some fellow Palestinians lost their lives.

This was the decision: Military operations shall now be carried out only outside the area of the uprising. This does not mean that we are ruling out the use of weapons at any moment. Nor does it rule out the possibility that our popular revolution might be compelled to use weapons at any moment. The enemy we are facing is a cunning, brutal, racist, Fascist, and terrorist enemy whose crimes are greater than all the crimes of racists and Fascists.

[Question] It is our hope that Fatah and the PLO will come closer to [adopting] the notion of Islamic Jihad. What do you think about that?

[Answer] When the uprising began, hostile forces described it as Khomeyni-inspired. Then they said it was backed by Islamic tendencies. That was not due to any affection they have for Islamic tendencies, but rather to their thinking that it would create conflict between Palestinian Islamic forces and Palestinian national forces. Then they found out that they had misconstrued the situation, so they started saying, "It is true that those inside the country have a relationship with the PLO, but

new leaders will emerge in their midst." And who said I would live forever? It was I who called the youngsters carrying RPG's and stones new generals. It is normal for the new generation to take over the task of carrying the standard for the fight. That is just what we did when we took over that standard from the generation that came before us. I say with pride that everything they did to divide our people failed. And let me now say how my brother Ahmad Yasin replied when he was told, "You have differences with Yasir 'Arafat: he wants a Palestinian state, but you want an Islamic one." Yasin told them, "This has nothing to do with you. When the Palestinian state is established, we will see whose opinion will prevail." That was an eloquent and harsh response to the Austrian press. That is why I want to say that, God willing, we are on the verge of victory. God willing, the dawn will come.

[Question] Can you give us some idea about total losses which have been incurred so far as a result of the uprising?

[Answer] During the past 70 days 118 people lost their lives, and 44 abortion cases were performed in hospitals. That figure does not include those people who did not reach the hospital. Three cases involved twins, and that means 47 fetuses.

The number of wounded persons who were taken to hospitals amounted to 1,840 persons. A report by an American medical mission states that the number of wounded persons is 4,000. Between 7,500 and 8,000 persons were arrested, and they are being held in collective detention camps. These losses do not include hospitals which were destroyed, homes which were destroyed and burned, homes and stores that were looted, and trees which were uprooted and burned. All this reveals the magnitude of the battle.

[Question] Did you receive aid that was to be sent to your people in the occupied land?

[Answer] Our people have been fighting on all fronts for 70 days, and the only contributions we received have been the five million contributed by Kuwait to the UNRWA and the three million contributed by Iraq. No other contributions from official agencies or from people were received. I am saying for the historical record that Palestinian people have now been fighting the Zionist enemy's forces singlehandedly for 70 days.

Some are saying that they do not want to pay the PLO any money, and they say many things to justify that. I know why they do not want to pay the PLO any money. Vernon Walters, the United States' UN representative announced an American resolution. Mr Walters said, "We want to dry up the PLO's financial resources." If this US resolution so shamelessly revealed by Vernon Walters is the excuse some people are using for not contributing, then contributions should be made to the UNRWA, which has asked for 7 million dollars a month.

When the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East cut its budget, we had to choose between feeding our bodies and feeding our minds. We preferred tightening our belts. So we chose to cut our food budget but not our education budget. Why don't these people make contributions to the UNRWA which needs between 5 and 7 million dollars? And that figure does not include the medicine that is needed for 4,000 wounded persons who need treatment. Nor does it include expenditures for 8,000 detainees. That is why we decided upon families sponsoring and providing for other families.

[Question] How does that work?

[Answer] Every family living abroad would support one family living in Palestine. That is more or less how it would work. Not every family in Palestine needs support. There are one million families in Palestine that need support, and there are 3 million families abroad. That is one family in Palestine for every three families abroad. Such support would continue for 1 year. "... Rouse the faithful to arms" [al-Anfal: 65] and ... "You are accountable for none but yourself" [al-Nisa': 84].

This is the situation. I am laying it out in front of our Arab and Islamic nation so that people would know the truth. Let me tell our Arab and Islamic nation: "Vernon Walters should not think that he can bring the PLO to its knees or dry up its financial resources. It is not money that makes revolutionaries act. It is true that money is important and that it is a key ingredient of life, but money is not the primary moving force behind a revolution. The primary moving force behind a revolution is that sense which people facing occupation or colonialism have: a sense that fighting is their religious duty and obligation."

[Question] Palestinians who have been living under the occupation since 1948 participated in the uprising, which has now become a popular revolution in which everyone is involved. That has given this situation new implications that go beyond a settlement for the West Bank and Gaza Strip and involve the question of the complete liberation of Palestine. That has been the strategic goal of the Palestine National Liberation Movement, Fatah, and the PLO. How can that goal be reconciled with anything that might come out of the international conference which is being sought?

[Answer] Who said anything about an international conference? We may be dealing with some stated political facts, but that does not mean we believe there will be an international conference. But when the whole world talks about one, we cannot be the odd man out and say, "We do not want an international conference." An international conference is rejected by the Zionist state and the United States. Do we hold an international conference with Jordan? Do we hold one with France? Do we hold it with our enemies? Our principal enemy, the United States, has shut down our Washington office

and is harassing us now over our New York office, which has UN immunity. The United States is harassing us further by advocating drying up our financial resources. It is chasing us from one Arab country to another and harassing us with UN vetoes and weapons it has been giving Israel. The United States has been harassing me in my travels in Africa. It threatened the African states I visited because they recognized the PLO. That is the American position: the United States is saying no, to the Palestinian people's right to determine their own destiny; no, to an independent Palestinian state; no, to an independent Palestinian delegation; yes, to a Bandustan-like autonomous administration similar to those in South Africa. In other words, the United States wants us to move from one kind of colonialism to another and from one kind of slavery to another.

But the Israeli enemy is occupying my land. Who is it who thinks that there will be an international conference? Who believes that those people will give in? No one. The impossible must be accomplished before anyone can believe that. Let us not forget, however, that we are not living on another planet. We are surrounded by international forces and by Arab, Islamic, African, non-aligned and EEC countries, and all of them are calling for an international conference. It would make no sense for Palestinians to stand alone and reject an international conference. "We have been asked to speak the language that people can understand." If we do not, we will become isolated from the international, Arab, and Islamic community, and we will cut ourselves off from all our friends. It is true that our revolution is a Palestinian revolution, but it has implications for all those countries I mentioned. These are the ramifications of the Palestinian Revolution: everyone is supporting it from his own perspective.

[Question] Thank you, Abu 'Ammar, for this interview. We ask God Almighty to aid our fellow freedom fighters in the occupied land and to help them in their holy war. We ask God to strike terror in the hearts of their enemies, and we ask Him to help our fellow freedom fighters realize the victory we have been hoping for, and that is not too much to ask.

08592

EGYPT

Contractors Concerned About Funds Going to Foreign Companies
45000026 Cairo AKHIR SA'AH in Arabic
10 Feb 88 p 58

[Article by Amir Al-Zahhar]

[Text] The fifth conference of the Federation of Arab Contracting Companies was held a few days ago in Cairo. Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi opened the conference, which was attended by 13 Arab nations. Unexpectedly, baffling facts and figures emerged, showing that, during

the 17 years from 1963 to 1980, the amount of funds spent on development and construction activity was more than \$600 billion. The Arab contracting companies' share was only \$150 billion, while \$450 billion went entirely to foreign companies. It is worth mentioning that this sum, allocated for construction, represents about 45 percent of the total funds allocated for development during this period.

European and American companies obtained the lion's share—62 percent—of these projects. The number of European companies which did jobs in the Arab nations was 115. The United States followed with 46 companies, then Japan, Korea and other nations.

The study that released these dire figures to the conference prompts a minor question, which is: What if this enormous amount of funds had gone to Arab companies only, and what if these funds had circulated or been reused within the Arab economy?

Egyptian engineer Sharif Hafiz, a member of the executive office of the Federation of Arab Contractors, said that the most important ideas and recommendations are the following. First, it is possible to form blocs among the contracting companies, and the beginning should be in integral geographical regions, such as the Gulf region, the Arab Maghrib and others. Through these blocs and cooperation among the companies, competition with any other international companies is possible. It is certain that the Arab governments will give priority to these companies, especially out of a desire to increase their modern capabilities.

Second, [it is possible to] operate a system to induce and encourage Arab companies to enter fields in which foreign companies stand alone, such as airport, railroad and dam building projects.

As for the reason that foreign companies have won large construction jobs in the Arab world, the study said that the wealthy creditor nations condition their loans to some of the Arab nations on their companies carrying out those jobs and projects. Likewise, foreign consulting firms, especially those known internationally, take an important controlling role in these projects. One of the stranger cases involving a consulting firm happened during the drainage problem in Alexandria, when it became clear that one of the firms had requested tens of millions of dollars to study whether drainage into the sea or the land was better! This is the case not only in Egypt, but in other Arab nations as well.

There are other suggestions as to establishing Arab consulting firms, especially since there is still much untapped expertise in some Arab nations, such as Egypt. On the other hand, the contracting companies are also forming a bloc among themselves and are establishing consulting firms. In a similar role to that played by foreign nations in imposing conditions to support awarding projects to their companies, the Arab governments

and development funds which offer loans to other nations should impose conditions in order to support awarding projects to Arab companies.

Returning to the language of figures, the study says that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is at the head of Arab nations that make use of foreign companies, with 98, followed by Egypt with 84, then Iran with 75.

Lawyers' Guild Forms Defense for 'Egypt's Revolution' Case

45000048 London *AL-DUSTUR* in Arabic
21 March 88 p 3

[Text] The number of requests received by the Egyptian Lawyers' Guild from Egyptian lawyers volunteering to defend free of charge the people accused in the case of 'Egypt's Revolution' has reached 500. The Guild also received 35 other requests from Arab lawyers to participate in the defense.

AL-DUSTUR has been informed that the Lawyers' Guild is currently busy forming an association of these volunteering lawyers for a unified defense of the accused in the case. This, however, does not include the accused Ahmad 'Isam, who volunteered to inform the American Embassy in Cairo about the organization and threw the name of Dr Khalid 'Abd-al-Nasir' into the case. It has been rumored that this accused individual stated his desire to change his testimony after it became clear to him that the Americans were not going to fulfill the promises made to him and that he was not going to be considered as a witness for the prosecution in the case but rather as an accomplice by the Egyptian Prosecutor's Office. He is being placed third on the indictment list headed by his older brother Nur al-Sayyid, who had instructed his lawyer that he not be buried in the same grave as his brother.

Strategy Envisions 4 Coal-Fired Power Stations in 10 Years

45000051 Paris *AL-MUSTAQBAL* in Arabic
12 Mar 88 p 29

[Text] The Egyptian Electricity Authority has prepared a firm strategy up to the year 2000 which includes the construction of four stations to generate electricity from coal. These stations will have a maximum power of 500 megawatts and will produce 30 billion kilowatt-hours annually; i.e., 35 percent of all electrical power in the year 2000.

So far, four sites have been selected on which to erect the stations in 'Uyun Musa, Za'farana, Karamat and Sidi Karir. Care was taken in selecting their distance from populated and agricultural regions. For its operation it requires up to 12 million tons a year of coal with a low sulfur content to reduce pollution. However, the smokestacks are no less than 250 meters tall to guarantee that the particulate and gaseous byproducts are dispersed far from the surface of the earth.

Columnist Denounces Extremist Attacks at Asyut University

45000053 Cairo *AKHBAR AL-YAWM* in Arabic
19 Mar 88 p 14

[“Fikrah” column by Mustafa Amin]

[Text] We refuse to let anyone rule us with the club, neither government nor opposition nor any other group. Egypt is a civilized country and we want to preserve her distinctive nature. She chose freedom and no one has the right to impose his opinion or principles on her. We welcome discussion and debate. We honor each other's opinion whether we agree or disagree with it. Therefore, it is not permissible for anyone to come and make us submit to his ideas against our will. The Constitution provides each citizen with the right to embrace whatever he wishes.

Thus, we are stunned to hear that young people in some religious groups burst into the University of Asyut's celebrations, hurting or damaging everything in the auditorium—guests, professors and musical instruments—on the pretext that this was contrary to religion. Yes, music contrary to religion!

Who made you legal guardians of the students and teachers, imposing what is permissible and what is forbidden on them?

Who gave you the power of police, deputies, and judges to break up a gathering permitted by the university and agreed to by the police? Who made you a parliament, issuing whatever laws you wish, allowing whatever you wish and forbidding whatever you want?

We reject all types of dictatorship, tyranny and terrorism. It is not possible for us to reject the great dictator and then submit to the small dictators. It is the right of these students to propagate their ideas and support them; it is not their right to impose them on the people by force. It is their right to use the weapons of argument and persuasion; it is not their right to use sticks, clubs and chains. We are against the police entering the university campus, but if this happens, it is the right of the university's director to ask for police assistance. These students that broke into the university and struck students with sticks, clubs, and chains are the ones who attacked the university's independence and they are the ones who opened the university's doors for the police and central security soldiers to enter.

We have demanded a lot of the university's independence so that it might be self-ruling and a free gathering place in which all ideas and opinions are discussed. This is one thing and placing the university under the sponsorship of a group of universities is something else. Imposing certain opinions on the students and teachers is absolutism in the university and an attack on its freedom and independence.

When the government declared war on the Muslim Brotherhood in 1965, it announced in the newspapers and on radio and television that the Brotherhood was planning to kill Umm Kulthum. On that day, Hasan al-Hudaybi, supreme guide of the Brotherhood, who was imprisoned with me in Turrah prison, said to me, "The Brotherhood is innocent of this charge. We never thought of killing Umm Kulthum or any other performer. By this lie, they are making the people hate us."

More than 20 years later, it is strange that people come along who say they are Muslims and embrace the lying [charge] that the supreme guide of the Muslim Brotherhood was cleared of!

ISRAEL

IDF Appoints New Arab Affairs Advisor
44230013 Jerusalem KOTERET RASHIT in Hebrew
2 Mar 88 p 10

[Text] This week the IDF announced the appointment of Colonel Re'uven Levi as Arab affairs advisor to the head of the central command. The appointment is an additional blow to the prestige of activities coordinator in the territories, Shmu'el Goren, and it gives testimony to the great confusion in the security apparatus, against the backdrop of continuing disturbances in the territories. Levi, 41, served the last 3 1/2 years as Arab affairs advisor to the governor of Judaea and Samaria. He is considered to be close to Brigadier General Efrayim Sne, the governor of Judaea and Samaria, who saw him as a candidate for the post of governor. Sne resigned from his post on the eve of the disturbances against the backdrop of conflicts with Goren and other factors in the security apparatus. After Sne's withdrawal, Levi found himself without a job and any real influence. The new governor, Shayqa Erez, did not want his services. So Levi took an army course in which Brigadier General Freddy Zack, Goren's lieutenant, also participated. Because of the disturbances, Zack was called to leave the course and return to his command. No one spoke to Levi about this. He understood the sign and when he completed the course, he took a vacation. He did this until Erez finally called him to a meeting. The message was: it's time for you to leave. The background to the conflict, beyond personal hostility, was the concept of how to treat the Palestinians in the territories. Levi, like Sne, emphatically opposes the heavy-handed policy which Goren practices toward the inhabitants of the territories and believes that with a higher regard for the needs of the Palestinians as people, it would be possible to achieve more. Levi, a graduate in Middle Eastern and international affairs, has served in the army since 1968 in various positions involving contact with the Arab populace. Among other things, he served for an extended period of time in Lebanon. Commander 'Amram Mitzna' understood that during these days of confusion, as a result of the goings-on in the territories, he could not allow Levi to leave the staff.

Commander of Liaison Unit Discusses Security Zone, Hizballah

44230011 Tel Aviv BAMAHA in Hebrew
2 Mar 88 p 5

[Article by Mazal Mu'alam]

[Text] And suddenly, soldiers feel more at ease in Lebanon.

"IDF activity in the security zone has not changed as a result of the fact that there are greater forces in the territories," Brig Gen David Agmon, Commander of the liaison unit in Lebanon, tells BAMAHA. "In general, the IDF has a problem taking the initiative in its activities in Lebanon. Ironically, soldiers feel more at ease here because of the serious problem of morale of activities in the territories; here, activity is the military activity for which they have been trained and drilled, and the enemy is clearer. They can see what they are fighting against and that makes it easier for them."

[Question] Brig Agmon, are the events in the territories having an effect on the situation in Southern Lebanon?

[Answer] The events in the territories are clearly affecting terrorist actions against the security zone. That is, there are more strikes, some of which are even announced as being in support of the war of independence of the Palestinian people. I also assume that some of the agreements between Amal and Palestinians spring from the events in the territories, and there is considerably more cooperation between the Palestinian organizations and Hizballah.

The heightened activity is characterized by an increase in attempts by the Palestinians to penetrate [the zone]. The IDF's continued presence in the territories also has an effect on the situation here, although it is still too early to feel it. On the other hand, ironically, soldiers here feel more comfortable, because of the serious morale problems of activities in the territories. Here, activity is military activity for which they have been trained and drilled, and the enemy is clearer. They can see what they are fighting against, and that makes it easier for them.

IDF activity in the security zone has not changed as a result of the fact that there are greater forces in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. I think that, in general, it is difficult for the IDF to take the initiative because the enemy it faces operates as an underground, a guerrilla force, and not as a well defined enemy sitting in clear positions and targets. Against an enemy such as this, it is difficult to fight on the offensive, so most of our activity in the security zone is defensive. Even so, it must be clear that every time the IDF has a clear offensive target, it will attack.

[Question] Is the population in South Lebanon showing signs of active solidarity with the inhabitants of the territories?

[Answer] No. The inhabitants of South Lebanon are Lebanese of different communities, and every community here has traditionally opposed the Palestinians. Our cooperation with them is good, including the Shi'ite population.

The sole effect is, indeed, a positive one—since more jobs have opened up in Israel because of the absence of workers from the territories, more Lebanese are able to find work in Israel. Last month alone, the number of Lebanese working in Israel rose 50 percent.

[Question] What are the trends that have characterized the security zone in the past year and a half?

[Answer] There is a clear trend of improvement in all areas. First, there has been considerable improvement in the South Lebanese Army, deriving from the understanding and the recognition that they will be tied to us for a long time to come. This encourages them. The fact that the IDF will continue to support the security zone has immeasurably raised the level of cooperation with the SLA. The SLA is now in the process of improving its infrastructure, the level of training and its logistics system. Recently, it even received T-55 tanks.

Another area of improvement is the civilian side. A large portion of the population in South Lebanon were those who "sat on the fence" and were not sure whether the IDF would remain in the area. Today, the majority of the inhabitants have come over to us. There are many applications from residents to come to work in Israel, and this is really a statement of fact—that they are working with us. From the point of view of the inhabitants, there is consent to organizing and attention and receiving aid and services in the villages.

In general, there is a better feeling. A feeling of security and trust in the SLA, of indebtedness to them and to their safety and economic situation. Here, all in all, its better than in other regions of Lebanon, because of the security, because of their ability to work as usual, and because of our investment. Altogether, this is bringing a better feeling.

[Question] Which terrorist organizations are most dominant in the security zone?

[Answer] The most dominant just now is Hizballah. There is also a range of leftist organizations, supported by Syria, especially in the Biqa' region; and similarly, there are Palestinian organizations, and Amal, that occasionally operate against the security zone. This time it is possible to say, most definitely, that Hizballah is engaged in nearly all types of activity and especially in assaults on military positions. Amal members also take part at times in Hizballah actions.

Another type of activity is infiltration of squads for actions on two levels: explosive charges and mines. Recently, this has increased somewhat. From their point of view, this type of action is the easiest. The terrorists come, they lay a booby trapped or radio-activated charge, and they get away. This puts them in less danger. In attacks on military positions, they risk physical harm.

[Question] Are the terrorists becoming bolder? More sophisticated?

[Answer] I don't know if they are bolder. It's difficult for me to assess that. But they are becoming more sophisticated and more determined. Both sides want to be as sophisticated and effective as possible, and the question is who is doing that more quickly. I hope that we are succeeding in bringing the SLA, in ever greater steps, to a capability of confronting the challenge.

[Question] What nature, in your opinion, will terrorists activity assume in the security zone in the next months?

[Answer] I think it will increase, I do not think it will change. There are no new inventions. The existing activity—artillery shelling, actions on various levels, assaults on positions, ambushes, reconnaissance missions—will remain the same, as I noted, and can only increase. A type of activity that has not been carried out and that I hope will not occur is strikes against the population. Attacking the population, in my opinion, will not gain the terrorists any points or aid them. That is perhaps the only thing that can change in the nature of the activity.

[Question] In the past year, the IDF has strengthened and fortified many positions in the security zone, paved roads and new routes. Does this hint at intentions for the IDF to remain in place for a long time?

[Answer] During the time when the IDF sat in the Bek'a and the Shuf, it invested many resources there, ten times more than in the security zone; nonetheless, the instant the decision was reached, the IDF left. Today, the IDF is investing in the security zone less for itself and more for the SLA and the local population. This is really an investment that won't be wasted and certainly will not stand in the way of a decision to pull out of the zone.

But that will not happen in the near future. So long as Lebanon will not form a stable government, the IDF will not leave. If there were a strong government, one that could control the security zone, I assume that we would be very happy to pass the baton to it, on condition, of course, that the population linked to us would not be harmed.

[Question] What are the liaison unit's goals in the security zone in the coming year?

[Answer] The goals we have set are focused in two areas: The military—primarily, an improvement in the level of command in the SLA; the main effort will be directed

there, since considerable improvement has begun in terms of the level of responsibility. The second—civilian—in which we may invest more time and effort. In essence, it is a matter of organizing afresh the machinery of services and the infrastructure.

9738

JORDAN

Cabinet Assumes Authority Over Publication Licenses

44040128Amman *AL-DUSTUR* in Arabic
29 Feb 88 p 29

[Article by Ahmad al-Hasban]

[Excerpts]

Committee Decisions:

Parliament then debated the decisions of its legal committee pertaining to a number of laws, beginning with the press and publication law:

Ahmad al-Tarawinah:

Mr Ahmad al-Tarawinah [legal committee rapporteur] read the committee's decision pertaining to the bill amending the 1988 Press and Publication Law and pertaining to the 1987 Provisional Law No 2 amending the press law, including a recommendation to pass the two laws as laid down by parliament.

Jum'ah Hamad

A number of senators engaged in extensive debates on the provisional press and publication law. Mr Jum'ah Hamad opened the debate, saying: The press law before us today is old and arguments on it are old too due to the fact that it is linked to the freedom of the press. To appreciate fully this freedom, suffice it to note that its article is linked to the articles on personal freedom, the right to hold religious rites and other freedoms guaranteed by the constitution which we have sworn to uphold.

While I understand how eager the venerable government and the eminent parliament are to preserve the constitution, I appreciate our legal committee's expertise, efforts and consideration of the public interest when studying this law. But based on my long experience and career in the press, I feel that the freedom of the press is vanishing with time and that the exigencies and justifications allowing the imposition of restrictions seem, over a period of time, to have taken on a life of their own. Allow me to say, also based on my experience and career, that the attendant circumstances and awareness are changing and that the press, with the passage of time, has grown into an industry in need of huge investments. Each newspaper employs hundreds of workers, not to mention hundreds of collaborators. If you were to

accept, for the sake of argument and in view of exigencies and emergencies, the government's adherence to the immunization of decisions to withhold licenses from applicants, a license, given after examination and review and the investment process begins, becomes subject to suspension and confiscation. Therefore, an immunized decision is not only a disaster to the freedom of the press and the freedom of litigation, but is also prejudicial to the economic and social aspect as well.

Therefore, I propose the following:

— Deletion of the terms "withdrawal or revocation" from Article 16 to prevent duplication with Article 23 so that it may be dedicated to the matter of licensing. Apropos, I note that these two terms were not included in this article in the original 1973 government bill.

— Retention of Article 23 as is, with the deletion of Para B only, to be replaced by Para C of the same article.

The eminent Ahmad al-Tarawinah, the executive committee's rapporteur, responded by emphasizing that the press had acquired a new gain by this parliamentary amendment, for the parliament lifted immunity from cases of withdrawal and revocation. He said: "We in the Senate approve this amendment and the government has approved it as well."

He explained that Article 23 is totally different from Article 16 because it (Article 23) pertains to the security and safety of the state by providing for the following:

A. If a press publication should publish something that endangers national existence or threatens the safety of the state or is considered prejudicial to the public interest or the kingdom's constitutional principles, the cabinet shall have the right to decide, acting on submissions made by the minister, to revoke the publication license or to suspend the publication for a minimum of one week or impose a fine of no less than 150 Jordanian dinars and no more than JD500, to be determined by the prime minister acting on submissions made by the minister.

B. The prime minister's decision shall be final and incontestable.

C. Application for a new license for a cancelled publication shall not be considered before a year has passed since the revocation of the license.

The eminent Jum'ah Hamad responded by emphasizing that penalties stipulated in Article 16 were superfluous and not included in the bill submitted by the government.

Ahmad al-Tarawinah

Ahmad al-Tarawinah took the floor, explaining that Article 16 was the basis and Article 23 was the exception.

He said that the amendment parliament introduced to the law views all decisions pertaining to withdrawal and revocation of the permit as not immune unless based on the provisions of Article 23 in which case they are immune.

He stressed the need to retain Article 23 because it safeguards state security.

The Prime Minister

Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i then took the floor, stressing the fact that Article 16 does not pertain to penalties, but to the powers of the cabinet.

He said the original law empowered the cabinet to grant, deny, revoke or immunize cabinet decisions, adding revocation after withdrawal.

He explained that parliament had curtailed the cabinet's powers to withdraw and revoke, deeming this decision contestable in court.

He concluded his comments by saying that this amendment was in favor of the press and that its content pertained not to penalties, but to the powers of the cabinet.

Hasan al-Kayid

Mr Hasan al-Kayid then took the floor, explaining that he had noticed some inconsistencies between Articles 16 and 23 because the two articles pertained to the public interest.

He pointed out that the reason for these inconsistencies was parliament's amendment "which leads me to recommend that this law be preserved, as laid down by the government."

He emphasized that the cabinet was best able to determine what is prejudicial to the public interest because the press engages in a kind of political activity and may be able to steer public opinion.

He explained that the courts argue cases from an administrative point of view only and that the judge goes into court with nothing on his mind but the law. He is not familiar with the circumstances or the whole set of matters that go into a decision.

Madr Badran

Mr Madr Badran took the floor, confirming the existence of a difference between Articles 16 and 23. Article 16 deals with matters pertaining to nonpublication of a newspaper within a certain period of time or suspension thereof for a certain period of time and other matters.

As for Article 23, it pertains to newspapers already in print containing material threatening national existence.

He concluded his talk by saying that Article 16 deals with the subject of unpublished newspapers while Article 23 deals with newspapers already in print.

Muhammad Rasul al-Kilani

His Eminence Muhammad Rasul al-Kilani followed, emphasizing that Articles 16 and 23 provide for the same things.

Article 16 provides for withdrawal and revocation, which implies something already in existence, otherwise it could not be withdrawn or revoked, and Article 23 describes the grounds the cabinet employs in its decision to withdraw or revoke a press license.

Ahmad al-Tarawinah

His Eminence Ahmad al-Tarawinah stressed that, in accordance with the amendment introduced to the law, all decisions to withdraw or revoke a press license will be contestable, save for those pertaining to state security.

He emphasized that the rules provide for the inadmissibility of taking up any article not included in the bill under discussion.

Dr Khalil al-Salim

Dr Khalil al-Salim took the floor, emphasizing that Article 16 had to do with granting or denying licenses to people or agencies intending to publish a newspaper or, on the other hand, the withdrawal of existing licenses. Both Articles, 16 and 23, agree on the cabinet's right, but Article 16 does not base revocation on any grounds while Article 23 does.

He said that he did not see any harm in rendering the cabinet's decision final or contestable in cases where no harm is done due to the fact that the newspaper is not in publication yet and no journalists or employees have been hired.

He said: "The cabinet has the right to issue an uncontested decision decreeing the number of newspapers to be published, noting that I prefer that all administrative decrees be immunized."

He said: "The matter of subjecting the process of withdrawal or revocation to contestation before competent courts is in keeping with the government's general orientation not to immunize decisions and it protects the press."

He proposed passage of the law and Article 16 as laid down by the members of parliament.

He then proposed that debate be closed and the matter put to a vote.

Mr Jum'ah Hamad asked: "How can we allow litigation under Article 16 and prohibit it under Article 23?"

Muhammad 'Ali Badir

Mr Muhammad 'Ali Badir then raised the question of the powers of the prime minister and the cabinet under the law, saying: "How come Article 23 grants powers to the prime minister in the matter of fines, but not to the cabinet."

Madr Badran

Deputy Madr Badran replied: "In cases of cancellation, the decision must belong to the cabinet, but in cases of fines, it is alright for the prime minister to make the decision, acting on submissions made by the minister of information."

He said: "It does not make sense to burden the cabinet with a matter of a fine of JD150."

Walid Salah

Mr Walid Salah took the floor, confirming the inconsistency between Articles 16 and 23. Article 16 provides for the cabinet's right to revoke by an incontestable decision while Article 23 allows for contestation.

Ahmad al-Tarawinah

Mr Ahmad al-Tarawinah stressed that Article 23 was for particularization and exclusion only.

Dr Khalil al-Salim

Dr Khalil al-Salim said that his understanding of Articles 16 and 23 was that the decision to revoke a license was not immune.

He raised the question of setting only a minimum time and failing to set a maximum time, saying: "Can you imagine a 5-year suspension period, for example?"

He added that failure to set a maximum suspension time was unacceptable. Otherwise, suspension would be worse than withdrawal of license, especially since it is incontestable.

Parliament's Decision

House speaker Ahmad al-Lawzi then put Mr Jum'ah Hamad's motion to the vote and it was voted down, while the parliament passed the law and amendments of Article 16.

Provisions of Article 16

Following the ratification of Article 16 and amendment thereto, it read as follows:

A. The cabinet, acting on submissions made by the minister, shall grant publication licenses or shall renew, deny, withdraw or revoke such licenses, provided that the decision to grant or renew a license be coupled with a royal decree.

B. With the exception of withdrawal and revocation, the cabinet's decision shall be final and incontestable before any administrative or judicial authority. The minister shall notify the applicant or the owner of the newspaper of the decision as appropriate.

Article 23

As for Article 23, it was kept as is, without any amendment. Under this article, the cabinet's decision remains immune in cases of withdrawal or revocation if the publication exposes state security to danger.

12502

Reign of Islamic Law Opposed by Author, Defended by Reviewer

44040131c Amman *AL-DUSTUR* in Arabic

1 Mar 88 p 9

[Article by Mr. Fahmi Huwaydi, "A Final Word About 'Political Islam'"]

[Excerpt] (AL-DUSTUR) is publishing Mr. Fahmi Huwaydi's article in collaboration with the Cairo newspaper AL-AHRAM, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN, and the newspaper AL-KHALIJ which is published in al-Shariqah.)

I think the time has come for us to escape from the impasse which has trapped us for several weeks. Discussion of the proposed Islamic law and the Shari'ah reverted to that point, so that the debate dealt neither with the features of the proposal nor with the manner of applying Shari'ah law, but rather fell back a hundred steps, to revolve around whether there is a proposed Islamic law or not, and whether there is a Shari'ah or not.

The author of the book POLITICAL ISLAM dragged us to this point with all its frailties. I therefore wrote what I wrote, trying to draw attention to the danger of that appeal and to the phenomena accompanying its promotion inside and outside of Egypt. For reasons I mentioned at the time and that are related basically to the scholarly value of the book, I was more interested in the presentation than the content.

In response, AL-AHRAM published two articles in which the author of the book replied to the issues I raised. We have spent 4 weeks on the matter, during which the debate has become so protracted and sharp that its continuation would be profitable neither for the two parties to the debate nor for the readers.

As for the two parties to the discussion, each has expounded his view in a manner that he deemed agreeable and that he thought expressed his ideas and feelings, with his view thus remaining a private position in a matter that relates not only to the two debaters, but to all Muslims. I do not think it right or proper for either of us to imagine that the matter is his private domain and to monopolize for himself even mere opinion, to the exclusion of others.

As for the readers, it is enough that they have become acquainted with the opinion of each party. It is not just or proper for us by means of the argument between us to distract them from their own opinions or the opinions of other people. Rather, it is fitting for us to lower the curtain on the debate at this stage, so that everyone can choose the position he thinks satisfies his intellect and conscience.

Besides, I think there is no longer any benefit in further discussion of the content of the book. Its author has not been pleased with my review; he has accused me of fragmenting, jumping to conclusions, and reordering priorities so as to distort the book. This is what moved him to define in his two articles the foundation on which he based his work, in order to remove all traces of the distortion I had produced.

No Room for Clarification

In what AL-AHRAM published by him on 22 February, the writer said that his book constitutes "support for the legitimate orders—constitutional, legal, and social—in Egypt as well as the Arab and Islamic countries. [The book also] employs reasonable evidence (!) and rational proof, to discuss slogans which aim at demolishing the legitimate order in the name of religion."

With these words, the writer has summed up for us the distance we must cover (if we really want to engage him in discussion and take his words seriously) so as to define the position where he stands. The significance of what he says is evident to anyone who has eyes. What he says is sufficient to reveal his position without ambiguity or doubt. The man endows the constitutions of Egypt and other Arab and Islamic countries with "legitimacy"; he regards the appeal for application of Islamic Shari'ah law as a threat to this legitimacy, since in his view Shari'ah law is "illegitimate."

By his own free admission, made without any material or moral intimidation, he has himself chosen this opposition and taken a stand against the Shari'ah, rejecting it as a whole and in detail, and even accusing its advocates of threatening the community and tearing down the legitimate order.

This basic position from which he sets out and to which he holds is what has led him to strive tirelessly and speciously to look for various pretexts and tricks that can provide support and corroboration for the statements.

To this end, he has not hesitated to issue rules for explication [which he uses] in interpreting texts. He relies on spurious and false [interpretations] to waylay and utterly abrogate the Shari'ah. These are matters I have proved in what I have written. They also provoked the Supreme Imam, the rector of al-Azhar Mosque, to write his angry letter of 16 February, in which he described the ideas of the author of the book as "divisive" and as an attempt "to shake the creed of Islam in the hearts of believers."

My position, which I think I have also proved in what I have written, has been in complete opposition to that. I am not merely one of those who pride themselves on siding with the legitimacy of Shari'ah law; I am one of those who consider the Shari'ah the fundamental source of legitimate government and who hold that such is the meaning of the constitution in Egypt and in most of the Arab and Islamic countries—the constitution that our friend wants to assert as being the sole anchor of legitimate government.

This being the case, the content and the contradiction of the two positions have become completely clear. There is no longer any justification for clarifying what is already clear.

We prefer now to break off the debate and leave the matter in the hands of the readers. Let them allow their minds and consciences to judge and choose between the two positions. Now that we have requested that the book not be confiscated, and have asked why, given the fact that the Qur'an memorialized opposing ideas [by including an account of them] between its covers, any other opposing idea should be hidden from people, we would suggest that people read the book, POLITICAL ISLAM with complete impartiality. We also have said that opinion should be countered with opinion, not by government decisions and measures.

The Rector of al-Azhar a Terrorist!

To help readers judge rightly in the matter, we draw attention to a number of things we think useful for a correct evaluation and just decision concerning the issue.

1. It is neither fair nor right to stigmatize every discussion of the Shari'ah or the proposed Islamic law as a call to extremism, terrorism, fanaticism, infidelity, etc. Even if we condone this manner of discussion in the name of some motive connected with security awareness, it is incomprehensible and unjustified for discussion to proceed on the same path in what is supposed to be a scientific and serious discourse. We do not deny the existence of these ideas among the Islamic activists. But at the same time we should state that the advocates of such ideas are an eccentric minority among workers in the Islamic field; their course of action is rejected by the bulk of Islamic activists. If every society were judged by its eccentrics, it would be all over with the world!

Since the matter is as clear as day, its continued disregard, together with generalized, indiscriminate accusations against all Islamic activists, must be considered as intentional sophistry that invalidates the method of discussion and throws doubt on the sincerity of the investigator who has chosen total rejection of the Shari'ah.

Such an arbitrary position leads us to utterly mistaken results. For example, it leads to accusing the rector of al-Azhar of leading a terrorist organization advocating infidelity, demolishing the system of government, provoking sectarian conflict, and other such charges which the author never stops echoing in various chapters of the book, whenever the subject of Islamic law and its proponents comes up.

This being so, the list of claims and reckless charges the writer directs against all Islamic activists should be eliminated. The most objective and fairest procedure would be to bring such charges against an eccentric minority.

2. There is no room for dispute about the necessity of government for every society. When the author says that any group, even one of three individuals, needs a head or commander, we agree with his position. We support him when he quotes the following words from the Imam 'Ali Ibn Abi Talib: "People must have leadership, be it righteous or unrighteous." In order that the strong may not tyrannize over the weak, and that the cohesion and unity of society may be preserved, a system of order must arise in the group to define for everyone what is permitted (lawful) and what is forbidden (sinful) and what penalty is assigned for preventing what is permitted or committing what is prohibited.

It is an axiom of jurisprudence that the need for government arises from the need for order, and that government has as its special function the imposition of punishment to encourage what is permitted and prevent or deter what is forbidden. This constitutes a system of order which includes government, or it is Shari'ah or law—the name does not matter, because what matters is to avoid anarchy, the use of force, despotism, and tyranny.

Consequently, the reader of the book may perhaps be indulgent toward the author's futile attempts to distract people with formal distinctions between terms and with the linguistic development of those terms. What deserves more attention is the following question: Do the Qur'an and the Sunnah contain rules that distinguish the lawful from the unlawful and that command reward and punishment, or do they not? If such principles exist, then Islam has a system of order, or a Shari'ah, or a law, or binding principles of behavior. Islamic jurisprudence consists of explanations for these principles. Calling it Shari'ah neither harms it nor changes its nature, because the bulk of what Islamic jurisprudence contains is merely deductions from and applications of principles derived

from the Qur'an and the Sunnah. It deserves full esteem and veneration, but it cannot overrule what the Qur'an and the Sunnah contain; rather, the Qur'an and universally attested Sunnah can overrule every imam.

Truth Being Employed To Support Falsehood

3. In all systems of order and law prevalent on earth, certain principles of behavior—some constituting obligations, and others constituting prohibitions—are elevated to a more eminent status than other principles. These are usually few in number, though general in content; they form the "constitution" or "fundamental law" which represents the framework or vessel from which all laws, regulations, and orders emerge.

The civil code in Egypt comprises 1,029 articles; the commercial code, 419 articles; the penal code, 395 articles. On the other hand, the Egyptian constitution contains no more than 221 articles. These relatively few articles are the authority governing all articles in all law codes, regulations, and orders.

This being so, there is no room for the author's attempt to negate the status of the Qur'an as law, basing his argument on the number of verses that contain rules and obligations. What should be taken into account is the content of these verses, even if they can be counted on the fingers of one hand.

Controversy about this point is no part of scholarship or good understanding, because the Qur'an and the universally acknowledged Sunnah will remain the authority governing all that Muslims have said and will say until the Day of Judgment, though the author should fill the earth with books!

4. All scholars know that the Qur'an contains constitutional, legislative, and ethical principles. And scholars of the law, more than others, know that every legal principle, be it an obligation or a prohibition, contains an ethical element.

The author of the book misleads us when he states that all the rules of the Islamic Shari'ah are merely ethical principles. He must certainly know from his legal education the essential distinction between what is legal and what is ethical; he must also know that this distinction is defined in terms of the person who imposes punishment for violation of the rule and the nature of that punishment.

We can only view the author's assertion that the principles of the Islamic Shari'ah are all ethical as a truth being employed to support falsehood. The intention, in the final analysis, is to set aside constitutional and legislative rules, permit their violation, or spare the violators any punishment associated with them. Such logic serves the author's fundamental position on the Shari'ah.

Has the Qur'an Served Its Purpose?

5. In all systems of order, revealed laws, and law codes, if whoever applies the constitution, law, or regulations deems the text unclear in meaning, he has a right, in order to understand its meaning, to turn to general principles of legislation or to the legislative memorandum which records the discussions or reasons that led at the time to passage of the legal provision.

As a lawyer, the author must certainly know that one may never have recourse to general principles or explanatory memoranda if the text is explicit in its meaning, and that this necessarily applies to the Islamic Shari'ah.

Here we recall what the former rector of al-Azhar, Shaykh Mahmud Shaltut, wrote about Imam Muhammad 'Abduh and his method of exegesis: how he "had no great interest in the circumstances surrounding the revelation [of a Qur'anic verse]. To understand the meaning and connect the verses, he relied instead on what the subject conveys and what the words and turns of phrase indicate in the light of ordinary usage in the Arabic language." (AL-RISALAH, issue 17, July 1944).

As we call attention here to what has been correctly said—namely, that [Qur'anic] exegesis is a science with its own rules, principles, and specialists, and that we are not concerned with inventing new principles for this science whose principles are settled—we marvel at an attempt to fabricate a method attributed to Ibn 'Abbas in this matter and to construe his words arbitrarily in order to dismiss the Shari'ah artfully and release the community from obligation by it.

Neither Ibn 'Abbas nor anyone else ever said that the judgment of the Qur'an, like judgment in a civil case, has validity only on the same subject and for the same litigants. For the Qur'an was not judicial judgments; it is a Shari'ah [religious law] by which judgment is to be passed. While he was communicating [God's] message, the messenger of God—blessing and peace be upon him—was not a judge in a lawsuit; he was communicating a Shari'ah according to which judgment would be made in lawsuits.

Because each Qur'anic verse had an occasion for which it was revealed, generalizing this specious method, falsely and slanderously ascribed to Ibn 'Abbas, leads us to the conclusion—whether the writer intended it or not we do not know—that the Qur'an in its entirety has served its purpose, that its validity has ended, and that its provisions lapsed as soon as the circumstances accompanying their revelation ended.

Let us give the author an example from the Egyptian criminal code that he probably knows well. Article 48 of this code was drafted because of an event that occurred in 1910, when a group of young nationalists decided to kill the then prime minister, Butrus Ghali Pasha. One of the young men carried out the assassination and was

brought to trial; the judge sentenced him to death and acquitted the others, because the law in force at the time did not punish the act of being an accomplice to a crime, and punished only commission of the deed. The legislator subsequently corrected the situation and added Article 48 to the criminal code. It punished the commission of a crime even if some of the conspirators did not carry out an active role in executing that crime.

This was the reason for drafting the article. It remains in force, and under it anyone who agrees to an illegal act is punished, even though the reason for its passage came to an end three-quarters of a century ago. We have never heard anyone argue that it applied specifically to the assassination of Butrus Pasha Ghali and should not be applied in any other case!

These are five points we place before the reader of these ideas. They may help him to pass a fair judgment in the case with which we have occupied him during the last weeks. They are points that bear upon the [main] subject of the discussion. They go beyond the [minor] details, beyond the factual and methodological misrepresentations and lies, some of which we have pointed out—not to mention the fact that anyone with a minimum of familiarity with the principles of intelligent Islamic reading can uncover, locate, and rebut them.

12937

New Law Imposes Death Penalty on Drug Traffickers

44040131a Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
26 Feb 88 p 7

[Article by Ahmad al-Husban]

[Excerpts] The Chamber of Deputies held a session yesterday morning under the chairmanship of Speaker 'Atif al-Fayiz, with Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and the other ministers in attendance. Five bills were approved during the session.

Beginning of the Session

At the beginning of the session, apologies offered by deputies 'Ati Abu- al-'Izz, Dr Musa Abu-Ghawsh, and 'Ali al-Rimhi were read.

Drug Law

Then the message of the chairman of the Senate was read. It restated the 1988 drug and mind-altering substances act in order to introduce an amendment to paragraph 10 of the bill. Section 7 of the paragraph is to be deleted and replaced by section 8, so that the text reads as follows:

"Anyone who undertakes to commit any of the crimes specified in paragraphs 8 and 9 of this law under any of the following circumstances shall be punished by death:

"—If he committed the crime in collaboration with one of the international gangs that deal and traffic in narcotics or mind-altering substances, either by smuggling them or in any other manner; if he was a partner with such a gang in the commission of the crime, worked to the gang's advantage, or cooperated with it at the time; or if the crime he committed was part of the gang's operations or of an international operation to smuggle or deal in drugs or mind-altering substances.

"—If the crime he committed was linked to another international crime, including the smuggling of arms and money or counterfeiting; if the crime was part of the operations of an international gang that commits international crimes and whose field of operations lies entirely or partially in more than one country; or if criminals from more than one country participated in the commission of the crime."

Parliamentary Decision

When this paragraph was put to a vote, the Chamber of Deputies approved amending it as received from the Senate.

12937

KUWAIT

Kuwait's Refinery Operations Being Modernized 44040136c Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 22 Feb 88 p 9

[Interview with Kuwait National Oil Company Deputy Delegate Member for Industrialization Khalid Abu Hamrah, by Khalid Ahmad; date and place not specified]

[Excerpts] [Question] What are the most significant developments in Kuwait's refinery industry?

[Answer] The most significant development may perhaps be the trend towards increasing the capacity of the Kuwait National Oil Company's refineries and modernizing them. In this connection, the company has built and put into operation a gigantic project—the modernization of the al-Ahmadi Port refinery, all of the production units of which are currently operating at high efficiency. Furthermore, the company has almost completed a similar modernization project at the 'Abdallah Port refinery. The company spent more than 600 million Kuwaiti dinars on the first project, and the second project, on completion, will cost an estimated 628 million dinars. Our activity is not limited to huge modernization projects such as these; many other smaller-scale projects have been carried out at the company's three refineries and at the gas liquification plant at al-Ahmadi Port.

All of these projects are intended to achieve the following results:

a. increasing the operating capacity of the crude oil refining units and the other conversion units, either by

adding new units or making the necessary modifications to existing units so as to increase their operating efficiency or eliminate bottlenecks;

b. operating the units in the best possible manner, and following the most efficient ways of adapting production methods to meet world and local marketing requirements for all types of petroleum products, according to the specifications and qualities demanded by the various markets;

c. keeping pace with the continual international technological progress in petroleum refining and processing operations, so as to achieve greater diversity and higher quality in the petroleum derivatives being produced, thus yielding a greater added value generated by increased production of high-quality and high-cost derivatives;

d. showing greater concern for rationalizing the use of energy at the company's refineries and reducing the rate of energy loss, which will help make refining operations more profitable and reduce production costs; and

e. providing maximum protection against environmental pollution, safeguarding the company's installations and the safety of its workers, following the most efficient ways of accident prevention, and reducing the damage resulting from such accidents.

Furthermore, once all the modernization projects are completed, crude oil refining rates at the three refineries are expected to rise to 650,000 or 750,000 barrels a day.

[Question] How does the Kuwaiti refining industry compare to its counterparts in the GCC and OPEC countries, and oil producers in general?

[Answer] According to statistics published in OPEC's annual report for 1986, refinery capacity in OPEC countries amounted to about 6.6 million barrels a day that year, or about 9 percent of world refining capacity, which was about 73 million barrels a day.

Refining capacity in the GCC countries has been estimated at about 2.4 million barrels a day, and Kuwait's refining capacity amounts to about 30 percent of this.

The above estimate of Kuwait's refining capacity does not include the Kuwait Petroleum Organization's other refineries in European countries, which have an estimated capacity of about 130,000 barrels a day.

So much for quantity; from the standpoint of technology and industrial standards, the Kuwaiti refining industry has always tried to develop itself so as not to fall behind world progress in this field, by either improving the equipment used in the industry, using the latest technology and processes, or raising product specifications.

This development process is continual and unceasing. The Kuwait refining industry is considered quite advanced, not only among its counterparts in the region but worldwide as well.

Kuwait was one of the earliest states to adopt advanced oil refining technology when it established the al-Shu'aybah refinery in the early Sixties, and this technology is still in use in the refining industry to this day.

[Question] In view of the falling demand for OPEC oil, what marketing advantages will the modernized refining industry provide the Kuwaiti economy once the modern refineries become operational and begin commercial production?

[Answer] Without a doubt, the falling demand for OPEC oil, the resulting decline in crude oil production in OPEC countries, including Kuwait, and the consequent sharp drop in oil revenues, especially along with the falling prices and marketing difficulties facing oil exports, have all prompted a greater concern for increasing the efficiency of the company's refineries by raising their refining capacity and improving the quality of their products. This is what the company is trying to achieve through the modernization projects I mentioned earlier. And, as I pointed out earlier, this has helped yield a greater added value resulting from the increased production of high-quality and high-cost petroleum derivatives, and has thus led to our benefitting from the relative rise in the prices for petroleum products as compared to prices for crude oil.

These high-specification products have also helped us compete in the marketing field and enter new markets, especially in Europe, thus guaranteeing that oil can be marketed in the form of products and can yield an acceptable return compared to the return from marketing crude oil.

[Question] What are the chief products which Kuwaiti exports to foreign markets, and how well can these products compete with their counterparts in those markets?

[Answer] The most important petroleum products exported by Kuwait are diesel for automobiles, fuel oil, and naphtha, as well as kerosene, jet fuel, and liquified petroleum gasses. There are also considerable sales of gasoline for automobiles and sulfur.

Export competition depends on two factors: price and quality. The Kuwait Petroleum Organization exports the above-mentioned substances quite successfully. As we mentioned earlier, the company's desire to improve the quality of its products and raise their specifications in order to make them meet the highest international specifications, and the flexibility in production patterns

which allows it to meet any changes in demand, have both contributed to the success of the export plan and have reinforced the foreign markets' confidence in our national products.

[Question] What advantages will the linking of the three refineries give to Kuwait's petroleum products?

[Answer] We believe that linking the three refineries, in order to realize the greatest benefit for all the production units at these refineries, was one of the most successful experiments the company has ever embarked upon. The linkage was aimed, first, at putting the various units' production capacities to their best use and providing the most suitable ingredients and the best operating conditions, and then at adhering to the approved specifications for exportable end products without any overruns which would reduce the value of the products or hinder their marketing.

The basic philosophy behind linking the three refineries holds that the refineries constitute a network which is integrally linked by pipelines, which allow products to be transported and shifted between refineries by pumping. These pipelines can

a. transport end products ready for export shipment; in this case, the linkage is beneficial in that it provides the flexibility whereby one refinery's products may be exported via the shipping facilities of another refinery if necessary;

b. move and shift some products between one refinery and another for use as mix ingredients to prepare end products according to the quantities and specifications required for marketing;

c. move and shift some ingredients between one refinery and another in order to supply the appropriate feed to operate their conversion units, while at the same time to make use of secondary and intermediate products produced by one refinery's units in order to convert them into marketable derivatives and end products at another refinery's conversion units.

The final result of all this is the optimum usage of all the refineries' production capacities, and the maximum benefit from all their products, whenever prices fall, by raising the specifications and converting them into marketable products.

[Question] How far have you gotten on the 'Abdallah Port refinery modernization project?

[Answer] All the phases of the project are almost complete. All the engineering work has been completed, and all the equipment and material for the project has been procured. At the jobsite, construction work on the small amount of remaining work, which amounts to only 10

percent of the total project, is proceeding rapidly. According to the latest estimates, project completion, and the experimental start-up, is expected before the end of this year.

The Kuwait National Oil Company is looking forward with hope and confidence to the completion of this huge industrial undertaking. Along with the other refinery modernization projects which have been carried out, it will help achieve the larger strategic goal which the company has in mind—the continual development of the nation's refining industry.

8559

Chemical Data Center Opened At Chemical Society

44040136b Kuwait *AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM* in Arabic
2 Mar 88 p 3

[Excerpts] Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Chairman of the Supreme Committee for the Celebration of the National Anniversary Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Jabir opened the Chemical Data Center at the Kuwait Chemical Society at al-Rawdah. Chairman of the Kuwaiti Chemical Society Dr Mubarak Sa'ud al-'Ubaydi delivered a speech in which he said that the society has taken pioneering scientific steps in this field. He pointed out that the society has many diverse goals, and said that its scientific mission clearly demonstrates the scientific and cultural side of Kuwaiti life. In addition to being a member of the Federation of Asian Chemical Societies, the society joined the International Federation of Pure and Applied Chemistry in 1985 as an observer, and will be accepted as a permanent member next year.

He added, "Therefore, it is our duty to learn the best ways of using chemistry and its potential harms and dangers."

Al-'Ubaydi pointed out that the society has adopted the CD-ROM data system, which interfaces with a Read Only Memory [ROM] unit by means of laser disks [compact disks]. This is the latest modern technological advance in data storage and retrieval, which uses 4.7-inch disks capable of storing more than 550 million bytes, the equivalent of 1,000 books. He mentioned that the center has two systems: the chemical bank and data on occupational health and safety.

8559

Citizen Sentenced for Distributing Anti-Government Leaflets

44040136a Damascus *AL-THAWRAH* in Arabic
23 Feb 88 p 11

[Text] Yesterday the Kuwaiti State Security Court sentenced a Kuwaiti citizen to 3 years' imprisonment with hard labor for distributing leaflets advocating the overthrow of the government.

The Kuwaiti news agency reported that the state security court had charged the Kuwait citizen, Isma'il Sayyid 'Ali Akbar, with openly calling for the forcible overthrow of the government and defaming the character of the emir of Kuwait.

8559

SAUDI ARABIA

Report Highlights Accomplishments of Jubayl Industrial City

44040107 Jeddah *AL-TIJARAH* in Arabic
Jan 88 pp 68-71

[Article by 'Ali al-Sulaymani: "Ten Years of Heavy Industry in Jubayl: 15 Projects at a Cost of 58 Billion Riyals"]

[Text] The industrial city of Jubayl, and Yanbu', its sister industrial city, are the strongholds of national heavy industries started a little over 10 years ago. What are these industries really like today?

AL-TIJARAH, using reports by SABIC and Jubayl, reviews the accomplishments and glimpses the future of Jubayl the industrial fortress and SABIC the pioneer of heavy industry.

More than 10 years ago, the first crews arrived in Jubayl to level construction sites and lay the foundation for Jubayl industrial city. They had a tough job because Jubayl was then a barren expanse of desert awaiting hard years of continuous work. Today, a decade later, the first stage of developing the industrial city of Jubayl has been completed thanks to God.

The components of basic industries are the products of more than 13 heavy industrial plants utilizing the latest in technology to produce more than 50 basic commodities for domestic and international markets. These products represent between 4 and 5 percent of the world's productive capacity for petrochemicals which puts the kingdom on par with petrochemical exporting countries of the world.

The private sector helped establish some 70 support and light industries engaged in such activity as metal forming and the manufacture of plastic bags and concrete piping, and provides services ranging from product testing to heavy equipment maintenance.

Jubayl has seen a lot of construction for office buildings, marketing centers, and luxury hotels among others. New projects continue as the city grows. Today, 30,000 people live in that city which was transformed from barren desert to modern metropolis with beautiful boroughs and lots of greenery. Its residents enjoy the various utilities and facilities of contemporary living.

The modernization of the kingdom over a short period of time has encompassed all sectors but industrial development was the most significant. The kingdom has undertaken a comprehensive industrial plan to lessen dependence on crude exports, add value to natural resources, and secure a better quality of life for Saudi citizens which is the real objective of all economic development.

The development of the industrial city of Jubayl on the Arabian Gulf and the industrial city of Yanbu' on the Red Sea has been completed thanks to sound planning and relentless effort. They have become cornerstones of the national industrialization program and among the fruits of the kingdom's ambitious economic development plans.

The basic industries sector is considered the economic base for the Jubayl project that presently consists of 15 plants with high capacity and capital, of which two are under construction and 13 are operational. These plants use the latest in technology. Plans are underway to expand several of them.

The variety of goods produced exceed 15 million tons a year most of which is exported via Jubayl's King Fahd Industrial Port.

A broad spectrum of industries in the city and the kingdom also benefit from the byproducts of basic industries.

Responsibility for developing basic industries in Jubayl rests with two public sector organizations—SABIC and Petromin. The latter performs a similar role in the construction and operation of oil refineries and storage facilities. The operating capital of the 15 industries is estimated at 58 billion ryials.

We will highlight SABIC because of the vital role it played over the past 10 years, and is still playing, in encouraging and developing basic industries in Jubayl and Yanbu'.

SABIC is a Saudi limited corporation founded in Hijra 1396 (1976) by royal decree No M/66 dated Hijra 9/13/1396 which mandated the founding, operating, and marketing of basic industries—as well as of support and manufacturing industries—that draw upon domestic hydrocarbon and mineral resources.

—It has so far created and developed 15 world-class industrial complexes, mostly as joint ventures with well-known and successful transnationals.

—It has become, in a short period of time, a world source and producer of petrochemicals, fertilizers, and minerals. Our factories currently produce some 9 million tons annually of 20 products of the highest quality that meet consumer demand locally and abroad.

—One of its strategic priorities is to develop the kingdom's human resources and qualify them for the age of industrial technology because human development is imperative for comprehensive development.

—In addition to direct returns on investment, its products provide the support and manufacturing industries sector with ample investment opportunities to complete the industrialization circle with products that would diversify sources of national income and meet various consumer needs.

—It has developed a marketing network of two operating domestic corporations and two others under formation in Europe and the United States, not to mention its branches, offices, and warehouses throughout the world.

—Its products are currently being marketed in more than 65 countries. It has 1986 revenues of some 3,693 million ryials.

Commenting on SABIC's first decade, engineer Abd-al-'Aziz Al-Zamil, Minister of Industry and Electricity, says:

At 10 years of age, SABIC is a beautiful dream come true and a great idea that was conceived and nurtured in this wonderful land to grow much like a tree with the promise of plentiful fruit.

SABIC has matured beyond its years and was able during its young life to establish itself and develop its natural and human resources. It attained what could not be accomplished by predecessors far more advanced in years and experience.

The year 1986 was not a good year for the world's petrochemical industry as oil prices plummeted. Numerous other factors also impacted negatively on world prices for petrochemicals and a good number of established transnationals suffered losses.

Still, 10-year-old SABIC was able to weather the storm and even realize an increase in net profits. What else can I say? It has transformed a year of "drought" for others into the beginning of a season of plenty, God willing.

SABIC is our beloved kingdom's key to a diversified economy thanks to its direct revenues and the investment opportunities its products present to the private sector to establish new industries that would complete the industrial circle in our country.

It is a bridge across which our country brought in the most modern of world technology. It is a maker of men whose strategic priorities is to create a national skilled labor force capable of absorbing and taming technology. It has bridged the present with the future and is introducing the country to the innovations of this fast-paced technological age.

SABIC has taken long strides towards realizing that goal. It is gratifying that more than 50 percent of its labor force is now composed of native minds and muscle perfectly qualified to handle operations, maintenance, administration, and development.

Those are some of the domestic accomplishments of patriotic SABIC that believes in its mission under comprehensive development plans. It says "we will do" rather than "we did". It has foresight and has allocated billions of riyals for research and development, for manufacturing projects, and for the modernization of existing plants.

SABIC also has an Arab Gulf aspect to it. It is a partner in three industrial complexes plus a marketing corporation jointly founded with Arab Gulf capital. SABIC is intent on participating in any coordinated effort for Arab and Gulf cooperation.

SABIC's international character is also getting stronger. It originally chose to structure its industries as joint ventures with well-known and successful transnationals. It has entered the marketplace as a world producer and a source of the highest quality. Its operations are guided by its ethics as a true Moslem committed to uphold world prices and dedicated to serve the consumer in particular and the industry in general.

SABIC has put us on the road to a bright future and it behooves us to travel that road protected by God and guided by our sovereign and his heir and those to whom he entrusted the affairs of this motherland. I also take pleasure in acknowledging all the sincere efforts that helped make these accomplishments a reality.

Mr Ibrahim 'Abd Allah Bin Salmat, deputy chairman and president of SABIC says:

SABIC is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year but not in the traditional manner. It is celebrating by modernizing its factories, increasing capacity, diversifying and improving products, and raising net income despite a global recession and depressed prices of oil and consequently of petrochemicals. It has also launched its 13th industrial complex.

With God's help, SABIC was able in 10 years to surmount all obstacles. It built such an industrial monument that we can confidently say that SABIC is here to stay.

SABIC, started from scratch, now has 21 subsidiaries created in record time that was deemed impossible and which is the shortest and most comprehensive industrial development operation in the twentieth century. SABIC currently has 13 technologically advanced industrial complexes of high capacity. Two others are expected to go on stream in Hijra 1408 (1988). It is also a partner in

four Gulf corporations one of which is a marketing organization that supplements its domestic marketing network of two wholly owned subsidiaries.

A quick look at this year's accomplishments would indicate that SABIC has fully met our hopes and expectations:

—Actual factory production set a record figure of some 9 million metric tons, or a 44 percent increase over the previous year (note: production figures include 1.2 million metric tons of ethylene used internally by SABIC plants.)

—More than 7.3 million metric tons of various products were marketed. This is a 48 percent increase over the previous year.

—Income from this year's operations hit a new record of some 3,693 million [as published] or a 70 percent increase over the previous year.

—Net income per share from operations hit a new record of 24.4 riyals before alms taxes or 65 percent above last year. This encouraging result prompted the board of directors to recommend that 250 million riyals of profits accumulated since 1984 be distributed to shareholders at the rate of 25 riyals per share.

SABIC operations and productivity this year were affected by many factors, especially the drop in crude oil prices which was in the interest of many of our competitors.

Product prices dropped as a result, prompting us to increase production and double efforts to reduce operating costs. Getting products to remote markets is expensive especially since transportation costs are constantly escalating, therefore largely offsetting SABIC's advantage of getting feedstock at less cost.

No doubt, our operations were also affected by protectionist measures adopted by other countries against our petrochemical exports and by the customs duties imposed. As a whole, these factors were not a surprise to SABIC which is fully cognizant of changes in economic conditions. We act empirically and prudently and hope for the best.

SABIC was able, with God's help, to emerge from the bottleneck and surmount the obstacles it faced. Its accomplishments in 1986 far exceeded those of 1985. Actual petrochemical production rose by 57 percent. Marketing volume rose by 72 percent. Fertilizer production rose by 5 percent whereas marketing volume rose by 13 percent. Production of reinforced steel increased by 24 percent while marketing volume increased by 11 percent.

This year, the National Company for Plastics (Ibn Hayyan's) produced monovinyl chloride and polyvinyl chloride for the first time in the kingdom and supplied them

to local consumers. In October, it exported the first shipment of polyvinyl chloride to Japan followed by exports to other parts of the world.

In order to meet world market demand, and pursuant to its policy of diversification, SABIC subsidiaries Chema and Yanput, which produce polyethylene, began manufacturing alpha super olefins based on co-monomer hexin.

New product lines are still being added. SABIC recently signed two licensing contracts for technology to manufacture butane-1 and polystearate at its wholly owned Petrochimia complex.

Work is also progressing on schedule at two other SABIC complexes. The first is Ibn al-Bitar of the National Company for Chemical Fertilizers which is scheduled to begin production in 1988 with an annual capacity of 500,000 tons of ammonia in addition to other fertilizer products. The second complex, Ibn Zuhur, belongs to the Saudi European Company for Petrochemicals. It is expected to also begin production in 1988 at an annual capacity of 500,000 tons of trigonal butyric ether which is added to car gasoline and burning fuel instead of lead to lessen environmentally harmful emissions.

SABIC is keen to use the most modern means of transportation. The supertanker Al-Farabi arrived this year and began carrying the products of Sadaf in addition to ocean tanker 'Akba Ibn-Nafi' which has been carrying Ibn Sina products since 1985.

SABIC has also persisted in wide-scale efforts to establish its reputation as a world producer and to assert its principled marketing strategies and philosophy. It was particularly successful at the kingdom's "Yesterday and Today" exhibit which traveled to many capitals and was quite popular especially in London and Paris in 1986.

SABIC, in an attempt to advertise its products, also stepped up participation in specialized international fairs such as the Dusseldorf World Fair in West Germany and the Japan World Fair for Plastics in Tokyo.

Under an information program begun abroad last year, it hosted high-level press delegations from France, Germany, and Britain to acquaint them with the kingdom's comprehensive development and with its industrial renaissance in particular. It also continues to arrange visits for select media people from other countries that present actual or potential markets for its products.

SABIC pursues joint ventures on an equal and just basis having realizing that they are especially suited for it as the key to industrializing an ambitious developing nation while also serving the interests of its partners.

The kingdom offers such partners a sound administrative, investment, and economic climate in addition to the advantage of proximity to ample raw materials.

In return, the partners supply advanced technology, marketing expertise, skilled labor, and help in developing a new native industrial generation capable of understanding and developing technology.

The list of SABIC partners contains luminous transnationals from the United States, the Far East, and Europe. American transnationals include Celanese, Texas Eastern, Shell, Mobil, and Exxon. From the Far East are two consortia from Japan led by Mitsubishi, the Taiwan Fertilizer Company from nationalist China, and the Lucky Group from South Korea. From Europe come the Finnish-West German Development Organization and Italy's [Enichem?]. There is also the Arab Company for Petroleum Investments.

SABIC was careful to choose its partners from among the world's best who have a track record of successful and profitable similar projects. They also had to employ the latest technologies, have traditionally had shares of world markets, and exhibited the ability and desire to train Saudi youths. That was the means by which it brought modern technology to the kingdom, used it to produce goods of the highest quality, and guaranteed entry to world markets. Above anything else, its most important task was to develop a native labor force capable of assuming responsibility for the operation, maintenance, management, and development of industrial plants.

SABIC is planning manufacturing projects to create new horizons and investment opportunities for foreign capital as an extension of the joint-venture style through which SABIC proved to be a living model of international cooperation.

12945/06662

SUDAN

Islamic Front Leader Discusses Present Dangers to Government

45000050 London *AL-HAWADITH* in Arabic
25 Mar 88 pp 34-35

[Interview with Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of the National Islamic Front, by Isama 'Ajjaj; date, place not given]

[Excerpt] [AL-HAWADITH] Don't you think that Sudan is currently experiencing a serious threat which will push you toward participation in a national unity government? [Al-Turabi] Yes, the reasons are increasing because Sudan is closing ranks for a time during which these threats, which not only menace the existence of democracy but also the existence of Sudan itself, will be ended. [AL-HAWADITH] Are you talking about the likelihood of a military coup? [Al-Turabi] In spite of the fact that the leaders in the military sector are concerned that Sudan's situation is confused, they do not want the trials against which Sudan rebelled a while back to be

repeated. However, if the "civilian government" persists in its failure, the security disarray becomes protracted, the Southern problem and the rebellion in Sudan become militarily, politically and diplomatically critical, the economic losses intensify, and the government remains under threat of numerous disturbances and of collapse, I do not believe that the officers' alertness or the wisdom of anyone will be able to protect us from the possibility of a coup. This possibility may appear to be far off today, but it is visible, and we can deal with it wisely and bolster the political structure. However, a greater threat is nearby and looming on the horizon. It is the threat to Sudan itself, and if it is realized, we will not be able to forestall it. We are able to set democracy right with a popular revolution as happened with the revolt, but the real threat to the unity of the Sudan is from Garang on the one hand and western Sudan on the other. [AL-HAWADITH] The threat from Garang may appear clear, but what do you mean by the danger from western Sudan?

[Al-Turabi] It is an area in which there is widespread robbery and tribal militias, and around which there are countries with various disputes. [AL-HAWADITH] Are you with those who warn of an intensified foreign presence in Sudan? [Al-Turabi] The foreign presence has actually been in Sudan since the days of the revolt and a little while afterward, but the presence now consists of Chadian opposition forces who are using Sudan to cross into Chad on their military operations, and the Chadian Government is resorting to defending itself by incursions to counter the opposition threat. This has had an effect on arms proliferation and has led to an intensified presence which presents a threat to the unity of Sudan. [AL-HAWADITH] Do you think that there is also a threat from the spread of the people's committees in Sudan? [Al-Turabi] The people's committees are a Sudanese political force; they have not had much luck in influencing [people]. However, they have a legitimate presence, of course, under the auspices of democracy in Sudan. [AL-HAWADITH] We will go back to the Front's conditions for participating in a national government, which are being rejected by the traditional parties, the Ummah and the Democratic Unionists. What are these conditions? [Al-Turabi] The two traditional parties are making the dividing of the spoils of power the rule and they pay no attention after that to any difference between them on any policy. However, we do not agree to any government except one which operates on the basis of a unified program, not with slogans, but with clear political characteristics. We want a foreign policy which doesn't waver between East and West, and between the Arab and international axes. We want a decisive economic policy, in light of the government's confusion of socialist and capitalist tendencies. We want a definitive position on the question of shari'ah [Islamic law], which has hung suspended between abolition, replacement and continuation. We want an effective position on the southern problem. We want a government which is very economical in number and size, because we do not believe that authority means profit in

a poor country. We want a virtuous government whose ministers are committed to conscientious decisions. We want clear standards for selecting ministers, not for pleasing leaders and individuals here and there. [AL-HAWADITH] Let us say that the Front's position in regard to the necessity of implementing Islamic shari'ah and Garang's call to abolish these laws is one of the constants in the problem of the South, which has transformed it into a difficult equation. What do you say? [Al-Turabi] The matter of the South had no contact with shari'ah at the beginning. It historically predated shari'ah by 30 years; in fact, it predated independence. It is a case of alienation between two peoples instigated by the English. They left the South in its backward economic state while they worked to develop the North economically in an Arab Muslim culture, and when the two peoples met, alienation and estrangement occurred; this background was the reason for the suspicion and distrust. The issue of shari'ah showed up recently in the Sudanese arena, after the Southerners revolted the last time. We in the Front are dealing with the Southern problem from this cultural dimension in an attempt to solve it, due to the fact that we put forward the first real national political party, in which there are Southerners and Northerners from top to bottom, while the [other] parties are either completely Northern or Southern. [AL-HAWADITH] May we find out some of the leaders of the South who are in the Front? [Al-Turabi] There are two deputies in Parliament, Muhammad al-Rida Jabir from Juba and 'Ali Ghunaym Fartaq from Bahr al-Ghazal. The two names appear to be Arab, but they are pure Southerners. There are a large number of Southerners in the political bureau and the advisory council. We have tried to go into the South with aid, volunteer, and investment organizations to unify our economic interests and we have given a documented presentation of our position on the Southern issue in our discussions with the Southerners and the international church organizations. We have called for a federal system which will distribute the power; a just system shares the wealth. A system in which there is freedom and interaction provides freedom for specific cultures and local languages, but also encourages a dialogue toward a single culture and a decentralized system of law, until it is possible for the provinces in which the non-Muslims are concentrated to exclude themselves, if they wish, from some of the shari'ah regulations which they do not believe in, in spite of the fact that they are issued by a democratic majority. [AL-HAWADITH] Do you believe that the international dimensions in the Southern issue are the ones that started it and have delayed the solution so far? [Al-Turabi] Yes, the international dimensions in the Southern issue have become very clear. We have talked with Ethiopia, and have said frankly that there is a link between a solution to the Southern issue and an end to the Eritrean problem. There are also Cuban agencies which are taking a number of Southerners to Cuba. They teach them their ideology and train them militarily. The Soviets are looking for a base of operations, and there are Western plans with which the church is cooperating. All of these forces have a role in the Southern issue; the

churches give Garang humanitarian aid, as they say, and the others support him militarily. [AL-HAWADITH] Some reports have spoken of an Israeli presence in the South, attempting to utilize the crisis to its advantage. Can you confirm this? [Al-Turabi] Yes, Israel is present in some Central African regions, and we know that it has a firm link with Southern agencies. Once, in the days of the first rebellion, most of the Southern leaders were being trained in Israel. Israel is present in Central Africa and is not only interested in Sudan because of the Falashas alone, but because they wish to weaken Sudan and to open new fronts to dissipate Arab strength. [AL-HAWADITH] What is the truth about the crisis that occurred recently with the Interior Ministry over the invitation of some personalities to participate in the lastest Front conference, especially Iranian personalities? [Al-Turabi] There was no crisis, indeed it was the opposite. The government was cooperating with us and gave visas to all of those whose names we presented, even the Iranians. However, the Iranians that we invited did not come because of illness and one person was proposed to us instead, Mahdi al-Hakim. An invitation was requested for him [by the Iranians] and we begged off for security considerations, as we told him in our letter to him. Perhaps he wanted to present his issues—he is one of the Iraqi opposition—at the Front conference, thinking that it was one of the forums for general issues. It appears that our apology did not reach him, or that it reached him, but he ignored it and came to Sudan anyway. We dealt with him as a guest, considering it to be a fait accompli, and conducted a dialogue with him. We wanted to get him in contact with the other Sudanese leaders as we have done with others, but he was killed in the hotel. The police were able to conduct their investigations for their own purposes, then political plans showed up which prevented the inquiries from continuing. We lived in an atmosphere of crisis between the Foreign Minister and the Prime Minister over who bore the responsibility for what happened, the Interior Ministry for not taking care of him, the Foreign Ministry for inviting him, or the opposition for sending the invitation to him. On our part, we notified security. We took all the precautions which an opposition party can take, after we were notified of his arrival, and we advised him to be circumspect in his movements.

Increase in Nile Dam Capacity Boosts Electric Power, Irrigation
45040077b Khartoum AL-AYYAM in Arabic
3 Feb 88 p 4

[Article by Muhammad Hamid]

[Text] The drop in the yield from the Nile and its tributaries in recent years and the appearance of a wave of drought and the many problems arising from it have occupied many concerned persons, scientists, and water experts, not only in the Sudan, but in all the states which benefit from the Nile. In Egypt and the Sudan, the problem emerged and was placed under study in order to arrive at programs that would ensure the amounts of

water which would respond to the need. Perhaps the conference on water resources that was held recently in Khartoum is a good sign and the start of more comprehensive planning, covering all the states of the Nile Basin, that will provide extra water in the region of the dams, and of an agreement on implementing storage projects in the Equatorial lakes, as well as the storage project on Lake Tana and other projects.

Here in the Sudan, serious talk has resumed on expediting raising the height of the al-Rusayris Dam in order to get past the bottleneck. We have seen a summary submitted of the current activities and efforts in the Ministry of Irrigation to potentially raise the height of the dam on the basis of the inquiries and reports which were prepared in this connection. A number of engineering options exist. It is necessary to take a quick historical glimpse at the raising project to arrive at the essence of the studies that were made and the efforts that are currently underway pertaining to giving the al-Rusayris Dam priority among the urgent development projects aimed at safeguarding the Sudan's back for the future.

Background

In March 1972 an agreement was reached between the Government of the Sudan and the Agency for International Development, according to which the agency would finance an economic feasibility study to determine the priorities for future irrigation projects and the generation of hydroelectric power, and to prepare for the second phase of the project that would include a study of the best use that the rest of the water capacity of the al-Rusayris storage dam could be put to. The following summary describes the applications determined by the studies of the Blue Nile by the World Bank, the Government of the Sudan, and a group of consultants who were assigned to the study. The applications are represented in the planning to benefit from the waters of the Blue Nile in agriculture and electric power and to determine the maximum elevation required for the al-Rusayris Dam.

The studies began in September 1976 and were completed in 1977. Their conclusions, which were prepared by the consultants, were released and were approved by the World Bank and the Government of the Sudan. They basically provided for six different plans for raising the dam, as well as indicating the costs.

From these studies it was decided that the dam's height would be raised in a single stage to the level of 490 meters above sea level; that is, raising the dam's height to 10 meters above what it is now. This study corroborated another which was done in 1980 on raising the dam by 10 meters, providing that the work should begin in October 1980.

On 25 October, 1981, the supreme economic committee agreed that the first phase should begin immediately, and correspondence continued until February 1982. In

March 1983 a reply came that the World Bank had stipulated that, before detailed charts were prepared, a study should be made of the layout of the waters of the Nile so that priorities could be set in light of it.

In February 1984, an evaluation of a Nile water study was sent to the American consultative organization, which presented the draft of its final report preliminary to its authorization a year later, in February 1985. In addition to that, contacts were made with the British consultant Sir Alexander Gibb to prepare a draft agreement for a feasibility study and to resume the previous studies in order to estimate the true costs, find financing and start work. Meanwhile, costs continued to rise year after year.

Since the al-Rusayris Dam is at the forefront of the essential structures for the irrigated agriculture sector and the hydroelectric sector, a number of options for raising its height have been prepared.

Raising Options

There exist a number of possibilities and options for raising the dam by 7 meters or 10 meters in a single stage or in different stages in order to provide extra storage for irrigating new areas and to provide additional electricity. It had been decided that the raising would be done at the beginning of the Eighties, taking into consideration that certain difficulties might arise due to the drop in stored capacity because of the drought. The severity of the problems in fact worsened, and today they have become an obvious fact because of the expected paucity of the flow of the Nile. This is something that will cause cultivated acreages to decrease and lead to a failure to meet water requirements for generating electricity. The instability would lead to a state of emergency, which would cause a reduction in the water needed in the hottest time of the year (summer), having a negative impact on the water needed in Sannar for the pump projects which draw from the Blue Nile and the main Nile [channel]. The effects of these difficulties would multiply to encompass the efforts being made currently with respect to the plan to renovate irrigation projects in al-Jazirah and al-Manaqil, the pump projects, and the two sugar projects in northeast Sannar and Junayd. Because of that, it is important to expedite the raising of the al-Rusayris Dam, one of the Sudan's strategic projects, as it would increase the storage capacity of the al-Rusayris Dam from 3 billion to 7.4 billion cubic meters. That would enable the Sudan to exploit its entire share of Nile waters according to the Nile waters agreement of November 1959 with Egypt. It would enable it to expand horizontally and vertically in the area under cultivation, developing new areas and increasing the density of the existing projects by adding 761,000 feddans, of which 300,000 would be for al-Rahad II, 181,000 for al-Jazirah, 180,000 for the pump projects on the Blue Nile, and 100,000 for animal husbandry (private sector).

The plan to raise it also aims at increasing electrical power by 49.5 megawatts, and capacity will subsequently be increased at the Sannar Dam so that annual electrical power will increase by 500 megawatt-hours, which will enable savings to be made in the cost of fuel needed for to generate thermal energy. It will also be possible to pursue the need for additional money that will arise from the vertical expansion following the resettlement of al-Jazirah and al-Manaqil and the planting of larger areas to wheat to strengthen and ensure food security.

New Proposals

Continuing the studies and surveys that the pertinent authorities had done, the consultant to the Ministry of Irrigation, Sir Alexander Gibb, submitted a report in September 1987 on the new strategic plan for implementing the raising of the dam. The plan is summed up by two options.

First Proposal

The labor contractors involved in building and raising the dams will compete to raise the concrete barrier by 10 meters and the earth dam by 7 meters. The building of the earth dam should cost \$199.4 million, of which 175.9 million would be in foreign currency and \$235 [as published] would be in local currency.

The cost of the concrete dam would be \$48.5 million, of which \$39.8 million would be in foreign currency, and 8.6 million [all figures as published] in local currency. Thus the total cost of this proposal would be \$247.9 million.

Second Proposal

The second proposal is that the concrete dam be done by international contractors, and that the Public Establishment for Irrigation Works and Excavations do the earthen dam, for which expected cost estimates are as follows: \$160.9 million, of which \$37.9 million would be in foreign currency and \$22.9 million [all figures as published] would be local currency. The cost of the concrete dam in this proposal would be \$36.6 million, of which \$27.9 million would be in foreign currency and 8.6 million [all figures as published] in local currency. Thus the total cost of the second proposal is initially estimated at \$197.5 million. Among the factors that will enable estimated costs of building the earthen and concrete dams to be met as indicated is the possibility of the Sudan getting commodity grants to provide credit for buying excavation and earth-moving equipment, petroleum products, building products, reinforcing steel, etc.

Time Period

Inquiries show that the consultants estimate 4 years to raise the dam's height by seven meters, assuming that operations will cease during the fall and the annual flood

seasons. The consultants also took care to specify the quality, quantity, size, and strength of the materials needed to build the earth dam.

Raising the dam's height by 10 meters will take an estimated 5 years.

Where Preparations Stand

Inquiries made by AL-AYYAM on this major project show that the basic design for raising the dam is completed. Likewise, implementation charts and the preparation of tender documents will be put in their final form. The feasibility study for the project has almost been completed, and the Ministry of Irrigation is currently witnessing continuous meetings and activity among the leaders of the pertinent engineering agencies.

In their talks they have made assurances that they would make use of their own capabilities and work to convince the financial backers that the Public Establishment for Irrigation Works and Excavations should build the earth dam. In this respect the Establishment could try to get the help of a foreign company experienced in such work to work jointly to ensure a level of technical performance and to gain it experience.

Economics of the Raising Project

From the studies, it is expected that the Sudan's domestic economic revenue will rise by 12.2 percent as a result of raising the al-Rusayris Dam. The annual revenue from wheat area compensation alone will reach \$208 million, in addition to the millions of pounds from other crop production revenues. In short, it will ensure the continuation of irrigation projects on the Blue Nile, and ensure that water needs will continue to be met, especially after the completion of the resettlement projects now in progress. This will necessarily lead to an improvement in the irrigated agriculture sector and an increase in the cultivated area, especially of that planted to wheat, which depends fundamentally on improvement. It will also ensure that the needs of hydroelectric generation will be met. The costs of hydroelectric generation are low, and it has become an essential factor in meeting the harnessing requirements for various investments. Because of all that, raising the height of the al-Rusayris Dam has been given the utmost priority, and its implementation cannot be slowed down without being extremely detrimental to the irrigated agriculture sector and the entire energy sector.

12547

SYRIA

Writer Perceives Conspiracy Behind U.S.-Israeli Talks

44040154b Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
20 Mar 88 p 3

[Article by Muhammad Rajab 'Abbas: "Wrecking Occupied Homeland's Uprising to Rescue Israel From Its Dilemma Is What Is Behind Shamir's Visit to Washington"]

[Text] The talks of Yitzhak Shamir, the Zionist enemy

prime minister, with U.S. officials in Washington have, as expected, ended with coordinating Washington's and Tel Aviv's positions on the need to break the Palestinian revolution's arm so as to get the Zionist entity out of its dilemma. This requires advancing further U.S. diplomatic and military aid similar to the aid advanced in the wake of the October liberation war. This means undermining the struggle created by the national resistance in the occupied Arab territories, as well as the impact of this struggle on the Arab and international arenas.

Difficult Equation

A crucial objective of the U.S. policy in the years since the October war is the objective promised Israel by this U.S. policy, namely not to allow the Arabs another victory over Israel. This is why this policy has sought to keep the Arab reality unchanged, especially since Egypt shifted to the fold hostile to the Arab nation, and to keep the Arabs preoccupied with marginal issues totally unconnected with the crucial struggle against the Zionist enemy's occupation of the Arab territories. Despite all this, Israel has not been able to achieve prominent victories with its aggression against the Arabs. On the contrary, Israel's aggression has brought upon it repeated defeats since the 1973 war and through the war of attrition on the Syrian front which lasted nearly 70 days and the 1982 Lebanon war and its destructive subsequent effects on the Zionist presence in its entirety. Israel continues to pay a very heavy price for its invasion of Lebanese territories. The Palestinian people's uprising which has been going on for more than 3 months has come to declare that the option of moving forward with the struggle to liberate the land and to restore the usurped rights must be first taken internally.

Israel has encountered a confrontational force opposing its schemes. The Zionist leaders are aware that Syria constitutes the pan-Arab dimension and that this dimension has been the nucleus for the growth of this historic popular uprising which is being witnessed by the Arab and international arenas simultaneously. The stone revolution has created an explosive situation in the Arab homeland and it poses a difficult dilemma for the Zionist entity, for the U.S. policy and for all the countries connected with this policy, especially the Egyptian regime.

Visit and Coordination of Positions

In this climate of high anxiety which is engulfing the Americans and the Zionists, Shamir makes his visit to the United States to seek the means to be used in besieging the stone revolution now that the fascist Zionist means and methods have failed to weaken the desperate resistance. This shows that the visit's objective is to establish as much coordination as possible between Washington, Tel Aviv and some defecting Arab capitals to destroy the uprising and to foil its consequences.

It is to be noted that the U.S. Congress and the Zionist occupation authorities perform coordinated and closely-knit roles to weaken the spirit of the resistance. This coordination is evident in the following points:

1. The U.S. Congress has complied with the Israeli lobby's wishes and has announced closure of the PLO offices in Washington and New York despite the strong international denunciation of this decision which demonstrates the U.S. administration's violation of its international commitments and absolute U.S. support for Israel. This decision has been presented to Shamir as a testimony to the fact that U.S-Israeli relations are unchangeable.
2. At the peak of Shamir's talks with the U.S. officials, Israeli military authorities applied a number of fascist restrictions to the Palestinian people's revolution, cutting off international telephone lines in an attempt to block the means of communication between the revolution, its environment and the outside world on the pretext that there is a Syrian radio station that covers the uprising's news and developments moment by moment.
3. Urgent U.S. military aid, topped by 75 sophisticated F-16 fighter planes, has been given to Shamir's government.

This gives the impression that in the wake of his talks with U.S. officials and under the canopy of the fascist Zionist climate, Shamir may give the go-ahead signal for the perpetration of mass massacres aimed at foiling the brave uprising, especially since all factions of the Palestinian people have demonstrated their unity. The mass resignations in the occupied Palestine, beginning with the municipal resignations and ending with the resignations of policemen and of officials of the civil administration—the apparatus created by the Zionist military rule in the wake of Camp David to impose the U.S.-Israeli fashioned self-rule—have come to constitute the straw that broke the camel's back, to signify advanced struggle concepts and to elevate the uprising to an advanced level on the path of establishing the national government, of working with all the means to wrench the power from the oppressive police authorities and to obstruct these authorities' domination of public institutions. The resignations have also come to raise the level of various local, regional and international reactions and to reflect the true image of Israel as a fascist settlement-oriented entity. This image contrasts with the image which the Israeli propaganda presents and which depicts Israel as an oasis of freedom and democracy. One of the indications provided by the stone revolution is that only the people's will can make the victory and can limit the options of the parties opposing Arab rights, led by the United States. The uprising has actually nullified with resolve and determination al-Sadat's famous words that all the cards of the game have been and continue to be

held by the United States. Al-Sadat has been followed by disciples in his defeatist and capitulationist school who see in the United States the horse on which the Arabs should wager.

Popular Will Is Strongest

Therefore, it seems that the United States is proud of the reiteration of these defeatist words. What the uprising has done is to void this wager and to prove that the national will is the strongest. The U.S. movement has come as a result of the anxiety that has overwhelmed the U.S. policy decision-makers and not out of generosity toward the Arabs. Israel is experiencing a real dilemma, the U.S. Mideast policy is exposed to a new and unprecedented qualitative defeat and the Egyptian regime may fall at any time. Therefore, Shamir and the Reagan administration are expected to embark this time on extensive coordination to foil the uprising. This confirms that the Zionist occupation authorities may embark on mass massacres against the Palestinian people's uprising before the diplomatic wheel is turned according to Washington's schemes. Reagan will leave the White House as his predecessors did, without offering the Arab cause and Arab right anything beneficial. The Zionist entity's leaders have rejected the international peace conference and have refused to exchange land for peace. Upon receiving Shamir a few days ago, President Reagan voiced this approach when he said:

"The main principle in the negotiations is Israel's security. We will not put any pressures on you. I want to assure you that the United States is not a bargainer nor a middleman but rather an ally and a friend of Israel's."

It is well known that Shamir rejects strongly the theory of land for peace and that Washington will back down in the face of the determination of the Zionist enemy's prime minister and will ignore what it has advocated. Yitzhak Shamir has reiterated his rejection of an international peace conference because this conference lacks, in Shamir's opinion, positive givens.

Preventing Exported Revolution

In his talks with Shamir, Shultz stressed that the Zionist entity's strength and this entity's relations with the United States must be a cornerstone in what he has called the peace process. It is within this context that developing the strategic cooperation between Washington and Tel Aviv in light of the current circumstances in the region was discussed. What is most important in Shamir's meeting with U.S. officials is how to work to end the stone revolution and, more significantly, how to prevent its exportation. According to Shamir's statements to a radical Zionist group in Washington, this revolution is a war against the Israeli presence in its entirety. Despite this revolution, Shamir [said he] will not give up the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

It seems that Shamir will find it easy to persuade the U.S. officials of the feasibility of his ideas and to work with them to foil the uprising because there is a U.S. conviction that the spontaneous revolutionary momentum in Palestine has begun to grow and develop and has come to pose as big a threat to the U.S. policy as to the Zionist policy. This is why the Zionist lobby is working to put pressure on the U.S. policy decision-makers in Washington to accept Shamir's advice, to help him overcome the dilemma created by the uprising, to play for time in the interest of the Zionist entity, to end the existing divisions between the Likud and the Mi'rakh in Israel in order to rescue the ruling coalition and to confront the uprising. This mission occupied a large part of Shamir's talks with U.S. officials because the political climate prevalent in Israel and development of the means of resistance in Palestine to establish a national government and to strike the mainstays of the Israeli domination of the Arab population may create divisions within the Zionist military establishment and these divisions may create greater chaos and confusion in the Zionist entity.

But the uprising which views internal struggle as the sole means for restoring the usurped rights knows its path perfectly well and it will continue to gain revolutionary momentum against the Zionist-U.S. presence because it embodies the Arab history and will. Nobody will be able to stop this active will.

08494

Defense Minister Discusses Asad, Various Issues
44040125Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic
27 Feb 88 pp 46-48

[Interview with Major General Mustafa Tlas by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh: "Syria Has No Candidate in Lebanon"; in Damascus, date not specified]

[Text] Maj Gen Mustafa Tlas is a friend of the press and its men. He is enamored of the good word as he is enamored with beautiful poetry. Indeed, he is a maker of words and poetry.

Besides his official positions in government as deputy commander-in-chief, member of the regional command, deputy prime minister and minister of defense, he is also a loyal friend of President Hafiz al-Assad. He was his partner in struggle when struggle was an "indictment," he was his partner in party action and his partner in the corrective movement. He has been his close friend for 35 years and some.

This interview with Gen Tlas was meant to uncover important sides of President Hafiz al-Assad's personality, sides known only to Gen Mustafa Tlas.

At his office in the Ministry of Defense in Damascus, he received me with his usual friendliness, good cheer and confidence in the future, the future of our nation and that of coming generations. The following dialogue took place:

[Question] You are known to be President al-Assad's closest friend for over 30 years. What are the pillars and underpinnings of this friendship?

[Answer] Our friendship goes back 35 years and some months. We first met in 1952 at the War College, then we joined the Air College together. And since he was the party official in Latakia and I in Homs, we had many party meetings. This long-lasting friendship is another lifetime for me which I treasure as much as my life and more. Hafiz is the most loyal of Arabs, and when I say Arabs, I mean the most loyal in the world. This friendship has made me his bosom buddy, not to mention national beliefs, one party and progressive vision.

When I realized how much the country needed this genius of unique talents and saw that I was in a position to know him better than anyone else and to become aware of his talents, I came to love him very much, for knowledge is a primary impetus of strong passions.

In our culture, we, the Arabs, beauty leads to love and Hafiz al-Assad is a rich mine of both beauty and perfection.

[Question] You say he is one of the most loyal men in the world and Henry Kissinger, in his memoirs, says he is one of the smartest politicians in the Middle East. How come Kissinger, a friend of Israel, used this attribute to describe him?

[Answer] This is what Kissinger wrote in his memoirs. What he failed to mention though were his words to the president one day—I used to attend many of the talks in person—when he said: "Thank God, Mr President, that you are not the president of a European superpower, for you would have the United States' head spinning."

I have two things to add to Kissinger's remarks about intelligence and spinning heads. First, not only is Hafiz al-Assad the smartest person in the East, but also in the West as well.

Second, even though he is not the president of a superpower, Hafiz al-Assad will keep America's head spinning so long as the United States wants domination and he refuses to capitulate. Hence, it is not too much for Kissinger, the friend of Israel that he is, to recognize certain facts.

[Question] It is said that President al-Assad does not dicker on principles and in this he is very firm, even with those closest to him. What if things were to go the other way?

[Answer] Actually, al-Asad dickers neither over principles nor over goods. When he goes into a store to buy something, he pays the price and walks out, contrary to common practice in the East and West as well. He is too shy to dicker and is always on the side of the common folk rather than the elite. His elite is the common man and his worry is the common people. I know some members of his family who violated the law and were spared by the powers that be, but not by Asad who put them in jail so that order may remain king and respect for the law may not be subject to any other sovereignty but that of law.

[Question] What are the president's primary concerns?

[Answer] If I were to look into his heart, I would have the honor to answer for him and say that his main concern is to liberate the land, and this will not happen without a strategic balance with Israel. And no wonder, is it not a matter of survival? And is there a greater concern than survival? The quality of survival, however, is as great a concern as survival itself. Building a modern Syria is forever on al-Asad's mind, and between survival and the quality of survival, al-Asad makes his moves and strives for Arab solidarity, not to serve as an umbrella for American interests, but rather to be a fortress for progress, freedom and an independent and honorable life.

[Question] The world knows next to nothing about the president's childhood: his environment, his home, his father. Where and how did the president grow up?

[Answer] At the western slope of the "Awalite Mountains, 28 kilometers from the city of Latakia and among the lofty citadels and lair-like forests in the village of al-Qardahah, his birthplace.

It was in July of 1936. A Syrian delegation was negotiating in Paris. A memorandum from people claiming to represent the mountain reached the French capital, disavowing the delegation, demanding the consecration of secession and disclaiming Arabism and Islam. The mountain rose up and flocked to al-Qardahah in the biggest mass rally representing 200,000 'Alawites to submit a memorandum, published by the Damascus newspaper, AL-QABAS, on 30 July 1936, clearing up matters about the mountain being an integral part of the country. It said that the 'Alawite Mountain was Muslim and followed the Shahi faith, one of the five faiths of Islam, that there was no substitute for its Arabism and that the 'Alawites would not settle for anything but unity. This crowd was led by 'Aly Sulayman al-Asad, the father of young Hafiz al-Asad who was barely 6 years old at the time. But I had another rendezvous with the president's father one month before the Qardahah conference. Two years ago, when I chaired the 10-member committee of leading historians entrusted with writing Syria's modern history—I had asked professor Yusuf Zakhur and Dr Joseph Hajjar to photocopy all the archives on the mandate at the French Foreign Ministry—I found a

document stating that 'Aly Sulayman al-Asad and six others, including Shaykh Salih al-'Ali, were the first to ask France to return Latakia to mother Syria (Document No 3547, 15 June 1936, French Foreign Ministry archives, petitions section).

The third was told me by my wife's uncle, Mr Ihsan al-Jabiri, when he was governor of Latakia. A group from the al-Kinj clan that supported the French mandatory powers came to him threatening to chastise him personally if he did not stop his animosity toward France. The noble peaceful man was at a loss of what to do. 'Ali Sulayman, who was present, told Ihsan and the other people there: "So long as you are right and are working for the good of the country, I am on your side, my people are on your side and the whole mountain is on your side. Tonight, I will send some people to guard the offices and the residence, come what may." The Kinj clan was afraid of civil strife when they saw 20 men (most of them from the al-Asad clan) betting their life on the unknown in the interest of the country.

[Question] Who among the intellectuals have had the greatest influence on President al-Asad's thinking and who has left his imprint?

[Answer] Actually, Hafiz al-Asad is an exceptional reader and our cultural heritage has an innate quality in this domain. His first teacher was the well-educated Muhammad Ibn 'Abdallah who trained him well. Arabic poetry is beauty, chivalry and eloquence and Ibn Khaldun was a professor of sociology, just like LeBon. Considering the realism of his socialist thinking, however, Hegel comes immediately to mind. Yes, I believe al-Asad is the Hegel of our time!

[Question] What Arab personages have a special place in al-Asad's heart?

[Answer] If we exclude the orthodox caliphs, they are 'Umar Ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz, Sayf-al-Dawlah, Salah-al-din, 'Abd-al-Nasir, Huwari Boumedienne and Faysal Ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz, a great admirer of al-Asad who no sooner did he tell the Americans to listen to what al-Asad had to say than the arm of their intelligence service reached inside his office, making him the first Jerusalem martyr.

[Question] What about foreign personages?

[Answer] Lenin, Ho Chi Mien, de Gaulle, Bismarck, Gandhi and his friend, Tito; not to forget Andropov who held him in mutual esteem. Did he not say: "We will not allow anyone to single out Syria!"

[Question] During the October war, it was rumored that President al-Asad personally ordered the execution of officers and soldiers for insubordination at the front. Is this true?

[Answer] There was no insubordination. The whole country was like a beehive. We did not have a single conspirator in our midst, nor a single insubordinate nor a single traitor. As for insubordination and refusal to carry out military orders, we have the military penal code and field courts whose verdicts by law have to be upheld by the Ministry of Defense. So how can the president's name be dragged into that? Moreover, al-Asad is a man of peace who feels pity for a cat hurt in the street and his hated color is red only because it is the color of blood!

[Question] Since the corrective movement, or since President al-Asad came to power, Syria has experienced a period of political stability unknown to the country compared to what it used to be, namely a great number of coup d'etats. To what do you attribute this?

[Answer] You said it. I attribute it to the corrective movement!

[Question] Some attribute it to the great number of security agencies.

[Answer] Security agencies have existed since before the corrective movement and yet security did not prevail. Does this not tell you that even security agencies were in need of the corrective movement?

[Question] What were the reasons and motives behind the corrective movement?

[Answer] The fact is that everything within the party was just fine but things were topsy-turvy. President al-Asad took it upon himself to put the upside-down matters straight. It seems to me he was obliged to bring the sun out. His conscience was stronger than his discipline, both in the party and in the army, for the people were the most important issue.

[Question] Do you not share my belief that the Syrian media has been remiss in bringing out this patriotic aspect in the life of President al-Asad's family?

[Answer] There is an adage that says "man is stingy with himself." President al-Asad has such an important quality, but his father's stance was not so much his family's as that of a great many citizens. Nonetheless, I agree with you that the media has been remiss.

[Question] Is it true that President al-Asad does not like debate and dialogue?

[Answer] President al-Asad is the least domineering man of his time and may be the last to say anything in the party leadership or conferences. True, the decision is his, but did he ever take a decision that failed to amaze? Ask any creative person if he comes up with his masterpieces without contemplation, great effort and patience? How can he not like debate, he the interlocutor who can make the head of the likes of Kissinger spin.

[Question] Does President al-Asad have time to guide and care for his children? And do they enjoy special privileges?

[Answer] As far as time is concerned, I say no, in the wake of 8 March in particular. And why would al-Asad give his children special privileges when he is the father of all the people?

Nonetheless, keep in mind that in a little hour at mealtime, Hafiz al-Asad can draw the future path of his child for a hundred years. I know that the great Arab poets would love to have an hour with him for intellectual rejuvenation and creativity, for he is unparalleled in our time.

[Question] What are his favorite pastimes?

[Answer] Reading, culture and being up on things so as to keep up with man's development and progress.

— Visiting troops at their advance positions at the front to talk to them.

— Visiting martyrs' cemeteries to put flowers on them and read the first surah.

— Meeting the people.

— Meeting with learned people and artists and listening to music and meaningful songs.

He listens to and enjoys good poetry more than al-Ma'mun and Ja'far al-Mansur, almost forgetting at times that he is president.

[Question] Your excellency, let us talk candidly about some matters in the Syrian arena, keeping in mind that I know you are an army man, but I also know that you are aware of everything that goes on in the country. What is the truth about the economic crisis Syria is experiencing presently?

[Answer] The fact is that what we have is not an economic crisis, but rather economic difficulties. A quick look at the world as a whole with its socialist and capitalist orders shows that the entire world, including the oil-producing countries, is experiencing economic difficulties. We in Syria, however, believe that our difficulties have their justifications. We are paying the price of Arab steadfastness and national and pan-Arab stances. Syria will not forsake anything. Even in the most reactionary times, Syria maintained a pan-Arab vanguard position, so how about now when we are in our national splendor and the leader of modern Syria is President Hafiz al-Asad? Hence, this pan-Arab position of Syria is bound to cause some economic difficulties.

Our people in Saudi Arabia in particular and the Arab Gulf in general know full well that Syria is the one blocking Israeli ambitions even though Israel's mouth

waters for oil and Israel wants to get hold of Arab oil in order to have America by the throat. That is why Syria is standing almost alone in the face of such ambitions. If Jordan were in Syria's shoes, Israel would have invaded it. I say this with full appreciation for the Jordanian Army and its combat spirit. However, it is a question of capabilities. As I see it, Syria's strong army and Jordan's army together are blocking Israel's dreams. President al-Asad refused to be drawn 180 degrees to be at war with the Persian nation, a course which I believe has been imposed by America to sap the strength of the Arab nation. We in Syria view the conflict with Israel as a matter of destiny related to our national soil and our existence as a nation and a people.

[Question] Do you believe then that there are economic difficulties brought about by Syria's pan-Arab stand? This is well and good. However, an economically secure citizen make for a steadfast citizen. Are there any measures aimed at bringing about an economic boom?

[Answer] In the wake of the new cabinet and the instructions of President al-Asad, colleague Mahmud al-Zughbi is in the process of instituting some measures that will alleviate our economic difficulties. This year God has given us a generous rainfall which means that for this year and the next we will not have to import our bread, thus saving hundreds of millions of dollars. Furthermore, a primary cause of our difficulties is that we are a prolific and growing people for Syria may have the second highest birth rate in the world what with 400,000 births a year. (Laughing) Although I am the sole beneficiary of this birth rate because these people will join the armed forces when they reach 18, I have asked my colleagues in the cabinet to limit Syria's population to 12 million so Syria may achieve national security and food security. Add to that the encouraging signs of oil and gas production and we are quite confident about the future.

[Question] I have heard it said in social gatherings in Damascus—I come from this country as you know—that many kinds of medicines cannot be found on the Syrian market. Is this due to economic difficulties?

[Answer] With regard to medicines, Syria used to subsidize medicine because it used to set the price on the basis of 4 Syrian pounds to the dollar. What happened was that every visitor coming to Syria from Lebanon or Jordan used to buy large quantities of medicine to sell in his country at prices far above the cost of his trip. I remember my wife asking her sister, Mrs Sa'diyah al-Jabiri, who leaves in Abu Dhabi, to send her some medicine that was absent from the market here. When the medicine arrived, we were surprised to see that it had been imported into Syria and from there smuggled to pharmacies in Abu Dhabi.

I would like to say that the new government has allocated \$15 million to bring in medicine and Minister of Health Dr Iyad al-Shatti is currently promoting the manufacture of drugs in Syria. It will not be long until the market is replete with the necessary medicines.

[Question] How has Syria—the president, the government and the people—received the news of the uprising on the West Bank and in Gaza?

[Answer] We are delighted with the news, President al-Asad in particular, for he always maintained that there can be no solution without armed struggle.

As to how the uprising came about, this was the consequence of Israel's humiliation and suppression of the Palestinian people. For 40 years of occupation, 20 years on the West Bank, Gaza and Golan, the people have lived under such psychological suppression and pent-up emotions that they preferred to die for their country rather than live in humiliation and degradation. Here, I have a question to ask:

Begin has reviled the French president, the German president and the Austrian president at one time or another. One day I told the editor-in-chief of the WASHINGTON POST: "If your minister of defense looks upon himself as a soldier of Rabin, how can we have any respect for him? Such Israeli arrogance can only be countered by war." Imam 'Ali had something to say about this: "Throw the stone back whence it came for only evil can repel evil."

Herein lies the causes of the stone revolution, but the spark that set the fire in the plain was Operation Eagle led by martyr Khalid Akar. Our people in Palestine felt that if a commando can come from Aleppo on a heroic suicide mission over an Israeli air base while the Zionists stand before us here unchallenged, death is rendered easy.

Photos of hero Khalid Akar are hanging today in camps inside the occupied territory because our people extol heroism.

[Question] Who do you think is behind this uprising?

[Answer] Its father and mother are on the inside, in the occupied territories. Our hearts, however, are with it and Syria has focused all its attention on it.

[Question] Lebanon will elect a new president this year. Does Syria have a candidate for this position?

[Answer] We hope that in this election year in Lebanon the parliament will be able to elect a national president who can represent all the people.

We do not have a candidate because the Lebanese citizens and the Lebanese members of parliament are the ones who determine who the next president will be. I remember when President Amin al-Jumayyil came to Syria in the company of late premier Rashid Karami to congratulate President al-Asad on his reelection, President al-Asad was standing on the palace balcony reviewing thousands of well-wishers. I turned to al-Jumayyil, saying: "Can you tell who among these people is Muslim

and who is Christian? This is the way people should be. We in Syria are Arab first and last." one year through his rule, al-Jumayyil still had not heeded my advice, thus prompting the displeasure of the late president Kamil Sham'un because of his discrimination, even between the Maronites of Lebanon. Al-Jumayyil acted as though the Phalange Party was Lebanon itself. The other thing which is very strange is how can Amin al-Jumayyil be the president of Lebanon and not bring his brother's killer to trial?

True, the killer belonged to the Syrian Social Nationalist Party, but he was infiltrated by the Israeli Mossad because the explosive device that killed Bashir al-Jumayyil cost \$300,000 and was bought from Japan by Israeli intelligence and sent to the explosion site. Amin al-Jumayyil is aware of this but does not dare to bring the killer to trial.

I have this story to tell you. Following Bashir al-Jumayyil's assassination, Sharon went to Bikfaya to offer his condolences. He asked Bashir's father how many sons he had and the father said two. Sharon replied " "Watch out for the other one."

Therefore, we hope that the next president of Lebanon will have an Arab face, Arab hands and an Arab tongue and will safeguard Lebanon. As Riyad al-Sulh once said: "We will not allow Lebanon to be turned into a center or passageway for colonialism." Moreover, Lebanon is Syria's right flank, to use a military term, and we will not allow anyone to lay a hand on our right flank.

12502

Fifteen New Wells Provide Drinking Water for 300,000
44040154a Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
19 Mar 88 p 4

[Text] Al-Mazra'ah wells project was inaugurated two days ago. This project is the reserve source that will support 'Ayn al-Fijah spring which supplies the city of Damascus with drinking water and which is no longer capable of meeting the needs of the city population because the city has expanded and its population has grown beyond expectation and because new residential areas, called the encroachment areas, have been developed around Damascus.

The new project is a major water well project. It has a capacity of 40,000 cubic meters daily, enough to provide drinking water to nearly 300,000 citizens. The project supplies water to the public network in the areas of al-'Adawi, al-Tijarah, al-Qabun and Barzah which are adjacent to the project site. The Damascus Governorate Public Drinking Water and Sewerage Organization plans to increase this project's capacity by drilling 15 additional wells.

Water Source

This project's water source consists of 15 wells drilled in al-Barik al-Sharqi area, located north of the city of Damascus. Each of the said wells has the following characteristics:

Well productivity: 110-115 cubic meters per hour.

Total capacity of wells: 40,000 cubic meters daily.

Well depth: 65 meters.

Static level: 10 meters.

Well diameter: 42-50 centimeters.

Diameter of finished lining: 25 centimeters.

Thickness of filtration gravel: 17-25 centimeters.

Depth of pollution-prevention layer: 15 meters.

Water quality: Good and compatible with international standards. The registered salinity total does not exceed 450 [parts per million] and the water hardness total is 38 French degrees.

The wells have been fitted with 15 immersed electrical pumps of the highest international quality. Each pump has a capacity of 110 meters per hour and can lift water 25 meters upward. Water is pumped from the wells to flexible (Font) collection lines. The diameter of the collection pipe at the point where it enters the storage tank is 60 centimeters.

As for the automatic purification and pumping of water until it reaches the public water network, a special pamphlet issued by the Ministry of Housing on this project says the following:

Water Automatically Chlorinated and Pumped to Public Network

Before water gets into the collection tank, chlorine is added by automatically-operated electric pumps. These pumps have been linked to the water pumps so that both may start and stop operating simultaneously. The center has also been supplied with a reserve chlorination apparatus.

After chlorination, water is collected in a ground-level storage tank with a capacity of 2,500 cubic meters. The tank consists of two parts, each with a capacity of 1,250 cubic meters. Water is kept in the tank for a sufficient period of time before it is distributed for consumption to make sure that it is pure. This is done by insuring that water remains in contact with the purifying element for an adequate period of time to eliminate any pollution or

bacteria. Toward this end, barriers are built into the storage tank to insure the constant circulation of water from the moment it enters the tank until it flows into the pumping area.

Immersed electrical pumps have been installed in the storage tanks area. Each pump has a capacity of 250 cubic meters per hour and can lift water 100 meters upward. The water is pumped into a collection pipeline and then into another pipeline with a 600-millimeter diameter. This pipeline crosses Ibn al-Nafis Autostrad and supports the water network by linking with another 600-millimeter pipeline which extends from the city center to al-Qabun and Barzah areas.

Operation Switchboards and Control System

This project is distinguished by its automatic control system which enables the system's central operation switchboard to turn all the pumps in the wells and the storage facility on and off automatically and in light of the need for extra water. The operation of the well pumps is tied to the water level in the collection tank. The operation of the storage tank pumps has been linked to the water pressure level in the network. The operation of all the pumps can be controlled through the central operation and control switchboard.

An electric power station with a 1,000-K.V.A capacity has also been built in the project to provide an alternative source of power at times when general power outages are experienced.

Executing Firms

The project's basic works have been implemented by two companies, namely the Military Housing Organization and the Public Water Projects Company.

The Military Housing Organization has carried out the civilian works for the storage tank, the pumping plants, the power plant, the work to organize the general site and afforestation.

The Public Water Projects Company has extended the pipelines and installed the mechanical and electrical equipment. The total implementation period was 28 months.

Finally, we should note that the project has cost 22 million Syrian pounds.

08494

TUNISIA

Cooperative Agreements With Somali Signed

*ld010208 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 31 Mar 88*

[Summary] Three cooperation agreements were signed at the Foreign Ministry this morning between Tunisia and Somalia. The first agreement concerns the creation of a joint governmental committee to examine bilateral cooperation. This committee is expected to hold its first meeting in Mogadishu at end of the year. The second agreement stipulates the granting of custom duty exemption to products from the two countries to reinforce their commercial exchanges. The third agreement encompasses the various fields of technical, cultural, and media cooperation.

BANGLADESH

Bangladesh Communist League, Workers Party Merge
46001339 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 5 Feb 88 p 1

[Article: "2 Opposition Parties Merge"]

[Text] Bangladesh Communist League and Bangladesh Workers' Party (Nazrul), Thursday formally announced their merger to be henceforth known as "Bangladesher United Communist League", reports BSS.

Announcing the merger at a Press conference at Jatiya Press Club, Mr. Amal Sen, General-Secretary of the newly formed party, said that the unity of the two leftist organisations would usher in a new era of greater unity of all the leftist organisations. It would also help intensify the current movement, he added.

Mr. Nazrul Islam, a leading member of the party, also spoke at the Press conference.

The Central Committee of the party will have 19 full-fledged members and 11 alternate members while its Politbureau would consist of 9 members.

Stressing the unity of all leftist progressive democratic forces and parties, Mr. Sen called for forging greater unity of democratic parties on certain particular issues.

/12223

Ershad Presides Over National Land Reform Council Meet
46001341 Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 18 Feb 88 pp 1, 8

[Article: "Ershad Asks for Detailed Survey of Khas Lands"]

[Excerpts] The apex level National Land Reform Council headed by the President yesterday decided to carry forward all the three phases of land reforms—preparations, implementation and evaluation phases—concurrently to be completed in four years, reports BSS.

The council at its first meeting, held yesterday morning at Banglabhaban with President Ershad in the chair, also resolved to set up an inter-ministerial committee to examine and recommend to council a proposal to strengthen land management infrastructure down to the field level for successful implementation of land reforms programme.

The committee was given a month's time to report back to the council its recommendation on the proposal.

The council decided that alongside strengthening of land reform programmes as per 1984 Land Reforms Ordinance, other reform measures including distribution of khas land, raising of cluster villages and ensuring right of share-croppers must be carried forward to help increase agricultural growth rate and improve the socio-economic condition of poor landless and marginal peasants living in the rural areas.

President Ershad in the course of the meeting laid emphasis on further strengthening of rehabilitation programme of the landless in cluster villages. The council was informed that as of today, about 23,000 landless families have been rehabilitated in 35,000 acres khas lands. Besides, a few hundred landless families have been rehabilitated on trial basis in cluster villages of 'spandan', 'thikana', and 'joar' in Jhenidah Satkhira and Noakhali districts.

President Ershad directed the Land Ministry to see to it that as per the provision of the 1984 land reforms ordinance no peasant was evicted from his homestead.

The president said the nation had heard of land reforms at various stages of its history and some laws were made in this regard in the past in 1950 and 1972, but nothing tangible was done to implement those to the benefit of the tillers.

President Ershad said, the agriculture sector had been saturated to accommodate more population. He said while efforts were to be carried on to further expand the scope of agriculture, we had to make sustained efforts to create industrial base in the country in a condition of peace and stability to absorb the increased population left over from the agriculture sector.

President Ershad said the success of industrialisation was closely linked with the success of land reforms and agricultural growth.

He said the land management machinery was to be realigned to suit the requirement of successful implementation of land reforms programme. "Only through this manner we can ensure optimal productivity of arable land with direct involvement of the tillers with the land," he said.

He said while implementing the reform programme, we would have to take close note of the problems in the process and work on ceiling on urban land.

The President asked the Land Ministry to undertake detailed survey of khas land available and recover those from unauthorised occupation.

The council was informed that up till now 7.21 lakh acres of khas land had been identified. In addition 10 to 15 lakh acres of khas land were expected to be recovered from unauthorised occupation.

The meeting was informed that at the end of the current fiscal year, 22 thousand landless families would be benefitted by the distribution of khas lands.

/12223

National Economic Council Reviews Plan Implementation

46001342 Dhaka *THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER* in English 19 Feb 88 pp 1, 12

[Article: "98 p.c. ADP Outlay on Investment Used"]

[Text] A meeting of the National Economic Council (NEC) was held in Dhaka on Thursday at the NEC Block of Planning Commission with President Hussain Muhammad Ershad in the chair, reports BSS.

In his opening remarks, the President commended the remarkable progress in implementation of the Annual Development Programme (ADP) of 1986-87 fiscal year which was achieved by utilising 98 per cent of the total investment allocation of Taka 4513.90 crore.

He asked the planners as well as those who are working at the implementation level of the projects to identify the problems on the way of the implementation of projects and to take a coordinated approach to remove them so that there was no unusual delay in this regard.

President Ershad also urged the planners to change their outlook and mental attitude by putting emphasis on those sectors which were viable for the country. He told them to identify these sectors and put emphasis on them while making plans.

In the ADP under review, the investment outlay of local currency amounting to Taka 1998. 19 crore or 99 per cent of its allocation and that of foreign exchange worth Taka 2440.89 crore or 98 per cent of the project aid allocation was utilised.

Local currency expenditure of 15 agencies was found to be below 50 per cent of their allocation while that of certain other agencies exceeded their allocations. Project aid utilisation on the other hand was satisfactory with 12 agencies having fully utilised their funds.

The overall progress of implementation of 842 projects of different types taken in ADP was found to be 71 per cent. Out of these projects, implementation of 367 was 100 per cent of the target 136 was satisfactory with 76 to 99 per cent of achievement of the target and 339 projects were below 75 per cent of the target. No work was done in connection with 74 of these projects.

The defaulting agencies were directed to accelerate the pace of work in right earnest to make up lost time in preparatory work to ensure that these projects are completed within the stipulated time frame.

The NEC meeting also instructed the agencies which incurred expenditure in excess of their allocation to apprise Planning Commission of the cases and sources of finance of their additional expenditure.

The NEC urged the Government bodies to go by economic and financial discipline in expediting the development process.

It also underlined the need for taking immediate extensive and concrete measures to achieve the population control targets set forth in the Third Five Year Plan.

The NEC advised the concerned Ministries to expedite the process of transfer of the divisible components of development projects to Upazila Parishads for expeditious development of the rural economy.

The meeting also advised the concerned authorities to prepare Annual Development Programmes and Five Year Plans for the upazilas in the light of the experience of the past years.

/12223

INDIA

CPI Secretary Gupta Meets Press in Bangalore
46001336 Bombay *THE TIMES OF INDIA* in English 21 Feb 88 p 3

[Text] Bangalore, 20 February—Mr Indrajit Gupta, MP and Communist Party of India (CPI) national council secretary, today expressed doubts about the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, holding elections to Parliament at the end of his term.

Mr Gupta told a news conference here, that Mr Gandhi had been following in the footsteps of Mrs Indira Gandhi on several issues and the possibility of him seeking an extension for the term of the present Parliament could not be ruled out as he enjoyed a brute majority.

Relying to a question, he said, "I don't have much confidence in Mr Gandhi. The diverse views expressed by congressmen over the question of a mid-term poll are indications of the party's efforts to postpone going to the people."

Mr Gupta said that the burden of the people would necessarily increase in the coming budget session and it would naturally have an adverse impact on the Congress party."

The government has lost control over expenditure. One of the major reasons for this is the long-term fiscal policy which, in other words, means that the corporate sector will not face any taxes until the end of the Seventh 5-Year Plan, he said.

"We believe that the situation is ripe for launching of mass movements on concrete issues that directly affect people. This is far more important than talking about seat adjustments," the veteran parliamentarian said.

Replying to another question, Mr Gupta said that "whoever wants to go Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will not share any platform with the communal parties of either the Hindu or Muslim or Sikh colours. We are firm on this," he said.

We are not prepared to join forces with communal forces and later go through the dastardly act of waging a battle against divisive to win an election, he said.

Asked if the growing force was not sufficient to win an election in the Hindi belt, Mr Gupta said that "nobody can prophesy the outcome of the ballot box."

Mr Gupta said that another test of the left support for an opposition front would be held on 23 February, when the communist parties were organising a "Bharat bachao" agitation along with secular parties like the Janata, Congress (s), both the Lok Dal factions and Jan Morcha. The Bharat bachao day was a prelude to the Bharat bandh on 15 March. One of the demands of the agitators was the resignation of the prime minister and the holding of fresh elections.

He said the posting of the army in Tripura a day before the elections to the legislative assembly was yet another instance of the Centre refusing to reconcile itself to the verdict to the people. Its main aim is to destabilise all non-Congress governments in the states, he said and added that the Centre-state relations, the posting of governors without consulting the state governments concerned, the anti-national economic policies were all as on which the Rajiv Gandhi government should seek a fresh mandate. [sentence as received]

As an example of the economic policies of the Congress government at the Centre, Mr Gupta said when Mr Gandhi became the prime minister, there were 93,000 closed industrial units in the country. Today the number had gone up to 1.47 lakh and the government itself had no record to show the number of workers and their families affected by this closure.

/12232

Congress-I Government Takes Over in Meghalaya 46001292 Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 7 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] Shillong, 6 February—An 11-member Congress (I) minority Government of Mr. Purna A. Sangma assumed office in meghalaya tonight amidst a controversial claim by the Chief Minister that he had the support of a major section of the Hill People Union and some Independent legislators, reports UNI. Mr Sangma

declined to give the names or number of HPU legislators supporting him. He also disagreed with reporters that he was sworn in at the head of a minority Government.

In New Delhi, President R. Venkataraman, on the advise of Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has accepted the resignation of Mr Sangma, Minister of State (Independent) for Labour, from the council of Ministers.

According to a Rashtrapati Bhavan communique, Mr M.L. Fotedar, Minister of Steel and Mines, will temporarily hold charge of the Ministry of Labour.

PTI reports that Mr Rajesh Pilot, Union Minister of State for Surface Communication, who was present in the swearing-in ceremony at Raj Bhavan here, told reporters that the Congress (I) could form the Ministry with the support of the Hill State People's Democratic Party and some of the Independence.

The HPU general secretary, Mr S.D. Khongwir, however, said that HPU never supported the Congress (I) in the ministry formation and that it had already started exercises for formation of a regional Ministry in meghalaya soon.

The HPU is scheduled to meet on 9 February to elect its legislature leader and decide the future course of action, Mr Khongwir said.

The HPU, Mr Khongwir said, was already in touch with the Hill State People's Democratic Party alliance having a total strength of nine.

The remaining Independent candidates are reported to be forming a separate bloc, according to their leader, Mr James Marvin Pariat.

On the 22 members of the Congress (I) legislature party, 10 have been accommodated as Cabinet Ministers and one Minister of state in the Two-tier Ministry.

The HPU has not been included in the Ministry whose strength is expected to be increased in an expansion later.

Mr Sangma was noncommittal to questions whether the HPU had agreed to lend support "only from outside."

Asked to elaborate the question of support, the HPU leader, Mr B.B. Lyngdoh said "no comments." He added: "Wait and see. There are ways and means of supporting the Congress (I)."

The HPU emerged as the second largest party in Tuesday's poll after the Congress (i) with 19 members. No party has secured absolute majority in the poll.

Mrs Maysalin War who has been included in the Cabinet will become the first woman Minister in the State. She gets Cabinet rank.

Five of the Ministers are members of the outgoing Williamson Sangma Ministry. They are Mr D.D. Lapang, Mr R.C. Lalu, Mr A.C. Marak, Mr Salseng Marak and Mr M. Kharchandi.

The new entrants to the Ministry are the vice-president of the Meghalaya Pradesh Congress (I), Mr Upstar Kharbuli, Mr J.D. Pohramen, Mr O. Nongdu, Mrs War—all Cabinet rank and Mr S.H. Shylla, president of the Farmer Forum, a frontal organization of Meghalaya Congress (I) who was given Minister of State.

Mr B.B. Lyngdoh, leader of the Opposition of the outgoing Assembly, political leaders of different shades, the former Chief Minister, Captain W.A. Sangma, and many high-ranking civil and police officers were present at the swearing-in ceremony.

Mr Sangma said his Ministry would give top priority to the all-round development of the State with emphasis on agriculture and horticulture.

/12913

Jharkhand Movement Facing Crisis in Leadership

46001294 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English

8 Feb 88 p 6

[Text] Dumka, 7 February—The Jharkhand movement, for a separate tribal State, is going through a leadership crisis, reports UNI.

The movement, the rallying point of tribals in the 50s under the leadership Jharkhand party's founder, Jaipal Singh, is now split into various groups of Jharkhand activists, officials and researchers say.

A fresh bid to revive the movement has recently been made by the Jharkhand Coordination Committee, and the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha but it had no tangible impact, official sources said.

The latest attempt to forge a united front under the banner of the Jharkhand Coordination Committee fizzled out following the withdrawal of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha.

The calls for "rail-roko" and "rasta-roko" by JCC and efforts to mobilize people to attend the meetings by JMM had failed to make any "impact," the Santhal Parganas Deputy Commissioner, Mr U.A. Sangma, said. Reports from Singhbhum and Ranchi described the response as "poor."

The euphoria of the 1979-80, was no longer there because of a "vacuum" in the present leadership. Three distinct streams have emerged during the fresh spurt in the movement—the JCC with its epicentre at Ranchi, the JMM around the Santhal Parganas and the Jharkhand Mukti Andolan in Orissa, the Stanford University research scholar, Mr Pramod Prahajuli, said.

The demand for a separate identity is in the "heart" of the tribals, Mr Prahajuli, a Nepali citizen conducting a research on "Jharkhand culture and movement," said. The problem is of articulation of the demand through a single source that would hammer the message into the "heads" of the tribals he said.

The demand for a separate tribal-dominated State was first made in the pre-independence days, after the Oxford-taught Jaipal Singh formed the Jharkhand Party in 1937. The movement gathered momentum by 1950 but the Congress Government ignored the demand during the reorganization of States. That was the "zenith" of the movement, the leaders say.

Wooed by Jawaharlal Nehru, Jaipal Singh merged with the Congress in 1963 following which the movement suffered a setback.

Subsequently the demand once again came to the fore after 20 legislators defected from the Congress and formed the All-India Jharkhand Party. In the mid-70s at least eight factions emerged, including those of Mr N.E. Horo, Mr Shibu Soren and Mr Bagun Sumbarai, which articulated the tribal discontent in terms of the demand for a separate State. The movement gained fresh spurt during 1979-84.

After a few years of "hibernation," the movement again hit the headlines in 1987 when 40 odd groups came under the banner of Jharkhand Coordination Committee.

The leaders have lost the popular confidence in their bid to secure Assembly and Parliamentary berths which forced them to resort to alliances and shift loyalty according to Mr Abdul Rashid, an old Jharkhand activist and owner of Rahmania Hotel at Deoghar, which used to be the meeting ground of leaders in the heydays of the 60s.

He said tribals used to bee-line at the call of leaders then but the present leaders have frustrated them. Mixing of electoral politics with the ethnic issues brought forth what sociologists call the problem of "cooptation." Mr Prahajuli said Ethnic and economic demands were relegated to a secondary place which disillusioned the people, he observed.

The aspiration for an ethnic identity attainable through a separate State was still there among the tribals, Mr Prahajuli, whose research took him to the remote tribal villages, said.

Backwardness of the tribal districts was the principal reason for the tribal discontent over which the movement gained strength in the past, Mr Sangma said.

The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha's latest memorandum also includes the demands for separate State, besides rail-link to Dumka, rehabilitation of the tribals and creation of additional irrigation facilities.

The Government's bid to appease tribals through special plans like tribal sub-plan and special components plan had failed to meet the aspirations of the people. The Mayurakshi Dam project, pending for 20 years, failed to provide water to the Santhal Parganas while pumpsets lay idle for want of electricity.

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Khergamvala Discusses Iranian Paper's Attack on Country

46001295 Madras *THE HINDU* in English
8 Feb 88 p 6

[Article by F.J. Khergamvala. Words in italics and boldface as published]

[Text] An Iranian daily has launched an attack on India in a lengthy piece that mounts an equally strong defence in favour of Iran's relations with Pakistan.

The *Resaalat* in an article titled "Pakistan and all-round relations with Iran," published barely three weeks before a meeting of the Indo-Iranian joint commission in Teheran is particularly harsh on New Delhi for opposing Pakistani ambitions in the nuclear field.

While criticising the U.S. on delaying the finalisation of an aid package to Islamabad, it states: "One can hardly help wondering that if the U.S. is really trying to discourage the proliferation of nuclear weapons, why should it remain insensitive to the attempts of the Zionist regime, South Africa and India?" "The amicable relations of Teheran and Islamabad have prompted the enemies of the Islamic revolution to pressure Pakistan for one reason or another."

India has been described as a "reactionary country of the region" along with Saudi Arabia, for among other things "launching an adverse publicity campaign as to its access to nuclear weapons." The Saudis have been blamed for the "expulsion" of Pakistani military personnel. (It seems strange that an Iranian paper should find the termination of the Pak-Saudi arrangement distasteful and meant to pressure Islamabad.)

The *Resaalat* is a privately owned paper whose importance stems from its ownership and on behalf of those it speaks. It groups certain powerful religious leaders, headed by Ayatollah Ahmed Azari Qomi, a member of the Majlis from the holy cit of Qom and carries on its body quite a few former ministers and Majlis members.

What is one some importance is that these include a member of the council of constitutional guardians and another of the council of experts, which chooses the

successor to the Imam. The paper is the voice of the traditional wing of the theocracy, favours free trade and private enterprise and is opposed to the populist views of the powerful Iranian Majlis speaker, Mr. Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Not first time: Irrespective of which political persuasion the paper represents, it is significant that this is not the first time since Teheran's media have attacked India since India and Iran signed agreements in September 1986 requiring both countries to be particularly careful about what appears in the official media.

Though technically the paper is privately owned it is anybody's guess what liberty the Iranian press enjoys under the present dispensation. The authorities hang their blue pencils over every word of comment that appears in respect of some select countries.

The last time the Iranian media went on a full scale assault on India was soon after the Meerut riots last year. Subsequently things appeared to have improved after the visit to Iran of the Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Mr. A.S. Gonsalves last August. Of late Radio Teheran has been running commentaries about how Gulf-based Indians have been converting to Islam. Some extraordinarily large figures have been mentioned, the truth of which could not be ascertained.

While there is nothing objectionable to any organ speaking out in favour of ties with a particular country, the paper's references to New Delhi's objections about the Pak nuclear programme and the unwillingness of higher Iranian authorities to rein in their clergy may have certainly touched some raw nerves in New Delhi. If the nuclear issue was not enough, the article added, "with regard to its (Pakistan's) deep, historic conflicts with India, Islamabad regarded Iran as its only reliable support."

Talking about close Pak-Iran links, it says: "The diplomatic, military and economic support Iran and its Muslim people lent Pakistan during its wars with India in 1948, 1965 and 1971 were the highest indications of the two countries' relations."

The important clerics whose views the *Resaalat* represents are obviously not yet aware of the pluralism in New Delhi's decision making machinery. In this specific instance, the slant of the article perhaps weakens those who suggest a stronger relationship with Teheran against those who recommend greater circumspection. Everytime religious lobbies raise their head, these negative aspects tend to detract from a slowly growing important economic partnership.

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India's First Hydrocracker Unit for Gujarat
46001296 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English
9 Feb 88 p 17

[Text] Baroda, 8 February (UNI). India's first hydrocracker unit, described as the latest and most sophisticated secondary processing facility, is being set up by the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) at the Gujarat Refinery here at a cost of about Rs 635 crores.

The unit, with an annual capacity of 1.2 million tonnes, will be commissioned in 1992 and will upgrade residual oil into high-value middle distillates like kerosene and diesel oil for which there is an ever-increasing demand in the country.

Simultaneously, the capacity of the refinery—the largest of India's 12 refineries—is being raised from the present level of 7.3 million tonnes per annum to 9.5 million tonnes by August as part of a Rs 30-crore expansion scheme.

Journalists who visited the refinery at the weekend were told by its chief general manager, Mr T.S. Krishnamurthi, that work on the hydrocracker unit had already commenced, with civil works like site grading and construction of an office complex currently in progress.

Once the expansion is completed, the refinery will be fully geared to process the additional two million tonnes of heavy crude oil that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) plans to make available from its north Gujarat fields by 1990.

At that stage, the refinery will be handling nearly five million tonnes of the heavy north Gujarat crude, which will produce about 3.2 million tonnes of residual oil. Conversion of heavy stocks into high-valued products through secondary processing has become economical because of the wide difference in their prices, Mr Krishnamurthi said.

That is where the hydrocracker unit comes in, spread over 50 hectares, the project will be self-contained with units for feed preparation, hydrogen generation, hydro-cracking and sulphur recovery.

The hydrocracker unit will also have a captive thermal power plant to be set up by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited. Engineers India Limited are prime consultants for the entire project, which will also have a modern effluent treatment plant.

IOC has signed an agreement with Chevron Research Corporation of the United States who will provide licence, process design and the catalyst for the unit, Mr Krishnamurthi said.

The hydrocracker unit is coming up besides another secondary processing facility, the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU), which was set up to 1983 and is currently in operation with an annual capacity of 1.2 million tonnes.

Apart from being inadequate to absorb the entire residual oil when the refinery is expanded, the FCCU field was only around 45 per cent of middle distillates while the hydrocracker will yield around 80 per cent, Mr Krishnamurthi said.

Other advantages of the hydrocracker unit are that it will produce large quantities of aviation turbine fuel and its products are of a premium quality. It also completely eliminates the heavier ends unlike the FCCU, Mr Krishnamurthi said.

Set up in the mid-'60s with Soviet assistance as the fourth of IOC's six refineries, the Gujarat Refinery today can process different types of crude oil from Ankleshwar, Gandhar, north Gujarat, Bombay High and varieties of imported crude, he said.

The refinery originally had an annual capacity of three million tonnes, with three units of one million tonnes each. These were revamped in the early '70s to go up to 4.3 million tonnes.

In 1978, another three million tonne unit was set up to process Bombay High and imported crude. This expansion project had a foreign exchange component of only 10 per cent, Mr Krishnamurthi said.

Earlier, an udex plant was commissioned in 1969 to meet the demand for benzene and toluene for various petrochemical and chemical industries in the region. Pilot distillation facilities for production of N-heptane, which was till then being imported, and aluminum rolling oil were also added.

Today, the refinery produces a wide range of products like liquified petroleum gas (LPG), naphtha, benzene motor spirit, kerosene, high speed diesel. It also produces 350,000 tonnes of aviation turbine fuel per year.

The refinery today supplies almost an entire range of feedstock to the Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited (IPCL)—the country's largest petrochemicals complex. It also supplies feedstock to the Gujarat state fertiliser companies, Mr Krishnamurthi said.

About the refinery's performance, Mr Krishnamurthi said it had achieved more than 100 per cent capacity utilisation in the last three years through better preventive maintenance, improved operational practices and constant upgradation of technology.

During the first nine months of the current financial year, the refinery processed 6.3 million tonnes of crude and hopes to process another two million tonnes in the remaining three months.

In 1987, the refinery produced 197,000 tonnes of LPG, 1.1 million tonnes of kerosene, more than half a million tonnes of motor spirit and 2.3 tonnes of high speed diesel oil, besides achieving a record filling of 6.9 million cylinders of LPG.

About 1.2 million tonnes of the refinery's products are pumped through the Koyali-Ahmedabad pipeline while the rest is moved mainly through tank wagons. More than 650 rail tank wagons are loaded daily with different products. About 450 tank lorries are also loaded every day.

During the seventh plan period, the refinery has implemented energy saving schemes worth Rs 21 crore, including the replacement of old furnaces with new ones with better thermal efficiency.

When on-going schemes worth Rs 19 crore are completed, 23,500 tonnes of additional fuel oil worth Rs 3.5 crore would be saved, Mr Krishnamurthi said.

Apart from the Rs 10-crore pollution control facility set up at its inception, the refinery also has plans to spend about Rs 27 crore on automatic air monitoring, and desulphurisation of fuel gases.

PTI adds: The Indian Oil Corporation has received clearance from the public investment board for two projects, the Rs 603.88-crore Kandla-Bhatinda product pipeline and the Rs 168.34 crore Digboi modernisation project.

IOC's director in charge of refineries and marketing, Mr S.K. Nayak, told reporters at the Gujarat Refinery here that the company, which has on hand major projects worth over Rs 1,300 crores, is awaiting clearance for two more projects—a second single body mooring system at Salaya and separation of propylene at the Mathura Refinery.

Amongst the ongoing projects, the modification of the Salaya-Mathura pipeline for pumping Bombay High crude in unlimited parcel size during winter would be completed on a schedule during the current financial year at a cost of about Rs 20 crores, he said.

Mr Nayak said about 8,650 tonnes of fuel could be saved every year with the improvement effected in the efficiency of the heater in the crude and vacuum units at Haldia.

The efficiency of the atmospheric and vacuum distillation units at the Mathura Refinery would also be improved soon in order to save about 17,500 tonnes of fuel per year.

Revamping of crude distillation unit at the Mathura Refinery for increasing processing capacity by 1.5 million tonnes per annum is also likely to be completed during the current financial year at a cost of Rs 5.5 crores, he said.

The marketing division has commissioned during the last month two LPG bottling plants at Savai Madhopur and Durgapur. the first phase of the bottling plant at Hazira and another one at Karnal, each with a capacity of 25,000 tonnes per annum, would be commissioned soon in order to raise the effective bottling capacity available with the corporation to 869,000 tonnes per annum, he said.

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Opposition Agrees on Issues To Take Up in Parliament

46001329 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English
22 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, 21 February—The Leftist parties, particularly the communists, were today persuaded to drop their move to boycott the president's address to Parliament tomorrow when the budget sessions begins. The communists, who have been calling the shots in Opposition politics for almost a year, were forced not to boycott the address by a president whose election they had facilitated by rejecting an agreed candidate of all Opposition parties last year and insisting on their own nominee.

At the same time, an AIADMK leader, whose party had also favoured boycott on their Tamil Nadu developments, promised to reconsider the move in view of the consensus. The communist move was on Tripura being declared a disturbed area just before the election.

The Leftists fell in line after Mr P. Upendra, supported by Janata, the BJP, the two Lok Dals, the Akali Dal and others, opposed the boycott move. The Leftists said in view of the consensus they would not press for a boycott. It was only a proposal of theirs and not a decision.

Issues

The issues to be focussed in Parliament, as agreed by the Opposition leaders, are:

(1) Declaration of Tripura as disturbed area and deployment of the army on the eve of Assembly elections in the state without the concurrence of the chief election commissioner and the chief minister of Tripura.

(2) Violation of the dignity and authority of Parliament by the government's action in indiscriminately increasing administered prices prior to the budget session.

(3) The farmers' agitation and the government's repression.

(4) The lathi-charge on and harassment of lawyers in Delhi by the police in collusion with anti-social elements.

(5) The revelation about corruption in the Bofors and West Germany submarine deals.

(6) The deteriorating situation in Punjab.

(7) Failure to observe democratic conventions and worms in the appointment of governors and their partisan conduct.

(8) Recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission.

(9) The meetings of district magistrates and collectors and the prime minister's participation in them.

(10) Deepening of crisis in the textile industry, including powerlooms and handlooms.

(11) Growing atrocities on weaker sections and women.

(12) The situation in Sri Lanka and the role of the IPKF.

(13) Rangnath Mishra Commission's report.

(14) Misuse of powers to impose president's rule in states.

(15) Electoral reforms.

(16) The subversive activities of the Gorkha National Liberation Front.

(17) The need to devise provisions for the enforcement of Article 78 of the Constitution concerning duties of the prime minister in regard to information sought by the president.

(18) Privatization of industries.

(19) The terms of reference for the Ninth Finance Commission, suggested by some Chief Ministers.

(20) The Assam accord.

(21) The crisis in the power sector.

(22) Agitations by employees of government departments and the public sector.

The opposition parties are pleased that the Leftists, especially the communists, have fallen in line with them and have not tried to impose their will on other parties. They feel that this could prove to be one big step to broader Opposition unity, regardless of ideological considerations, particularly in mass actions being planned from this week and leading up to "Bharat bandh" on 14 March.

/12232

Industrial Projects To Be Set Up in Sri Lanka
BK010347 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Excerpt] India is to set up 50 small-scale industrial projects in Sri Lanka on a turn-key basis. These are valued at 6 crore rupees. An agreement for this has been signed between the National Small Industries Corporation and the Rural Industrial Development Ministry of Sri Lanka.

IRAN

IRI Continuing Purchases of Weapons in London
46400098 London KEYHAN in Persian 3 Mar 88 p 12

[Text] Despite the fact that more than five months have passed since the Islamic Republic's war materiel and military equipment procurement office on Victoria Street in London was closed, revolutionary guards and representatives of the Army of the Islamic Republic, posing as "oil company employees," continue their extensive activities purchasing various types of weapons needed by the Islamic Republic. At least 30 employees of the National Iranian Oil Company's London office are directly involved in arms purchasing activities for the Islamic Republic. Until mid-September of last year, before the closing of its military procurement center in London by British officials and the expulsion of 32 of its employees, the Islamic Republic spent two billion dollars purchasing various types of war materiel and weapons for shipment to Tehran. Analysts for the weekly publication *OBSERVER* believe that the closing of the Islamic Republic's military procurement office in London by British police officials interrupted the London arms purchasing activities for only a brief temporary period.

After a few weeks, operations purchasing arms for shipment to the Islamic Republic were resumed by several officials who are apparently employees of the National Iranian Oil Company in London, and the budget now allocated for the purchase of weaponry in London is about one billion dollars per year.

The weekly *OBSERVER* published an article titled "London's Prohibition of Arms Purchases Ignored by the Islamic Republic," in which it wrote:

Since September of last year, employees of the National Iranian Oil Company in London have purchased spare parts for Chieftain tanks, flight implements and equipment for American fighter planes, and at least one complete series of accessories for military radar devices and sent them to Tehran. Flight implements and equipment for fighter aircraft have been smuggled to Tehran from America under the guise of medicine.

Last week George Robertson, an official of the English Labor Party, sharply criticized the purchasing of arms and war materiel by the Islamic Republic's officials, calling it shameless. According to the OBSERVER, George Robertson said: I will write a letter concerning this to the Ministry of the Interior and the Foreign Ministry, and I will demand that they announce what measures they plan to take regarding this matter.

The OBSERVER added: The expelled employees of the Islamic Republic's London military procurement office are now scattered in various European cities and are in direct contact with the office of the National Iranian Oil Company at Four Victoria Street, London.

Last week a researcher who is a member of the International Strategic Research Institute of London said: It is much easier for the Islamic Republic to conduct relations, expand its contacts, and handle financial and banking transactions through London. He added: The Islamic Republic's ability to buy war materiel and weaponry has not been impaired.

The weekly OBSERVER wrote: The Islamic Republic currently obtains about half of the arms it needs within the country. An expert who is a member of the International Strategic Research Institute of London believes that the Islamic Republic will never succeed in producing advanced weaponry such as some of the missile systems or the Phantom fighters. The Islamic Republic spends huge sums through its bank in London in order to purchase this type of sensitive weaponry.

Elsewhere in its report, this weekly wrote: When the Islamic Republic's Ministry of Defense issues the order to purchase an item of military equipment, this order reaches all the arms merchants and brokers in every corner of the world. The role of the revolutionary guard representatives and the Islamic Republic's Ministry of Defense at the National Iranian Oil Company in London is to study the conditions and desirability of the weaponry ordered, and after confirmation the order for payment is issued. These weapons are immediately shipped to the Islamic Republic using various types of transportation.

An international arms broker revealed that the Islamic Republic is now attempting to purchase a sensitive component of the Phantom F-4 on the international market. Each of these components is valued at \$600,000. The Islamic Republic's arms purchase experts stationed

at the National Iranian Oil Company's building in London began negotiations some time ago, through contacts with arms merchants, for the purpose of purchasing the necessary Phantom aircraft components. Apparently, in view of the fact that the arms being traded are not brought into England and will be sent directly to Iran, there are no legal difficulties with conducting such transactions in London.

Quoting an official from the British Foreign Ministry, the OBSERVER wrote: We do not condone activities of this type by the Islamic Republic, and we have told them clearly and plainly a number of times that the government of England does not want to see activities of this type carried out in London by the Islamic Republic.

The Islamic Republic's arms purchasing representatives and agents recently purchased a shipment of sensitive electronic equipment for the Phantom F-14 on the international free market and sent it to Tehran. Most of these sensitive Phantom jet parts were brought into England illegally from America in packages labeled "Medical Implements and Equipment for Emam Khomeini Hospital in Tehran," and then sent from that country to Tehran.

At the end of its report, the weekly OBSERVER wrote: An Iranian official who witnessed the shipment of the electronic implements and equipment for the Phantom jets to Tehran said that the packages were delivered to a British physician. This physician, who has good relations with Tehran, sent the packages to Tehran through the Islamic Republic's London embassy.

9310

PAKISTAN

Aircraft Overhaul

BK271658 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 27 Mar 88

[Text]—The first A-5 aircraft overhauled at the Pakistan aeronautical complex, Kamra, was today handed over to the Air Force. Speaking on the occasion, the minister of state for defense, Rana Naim Mahmud, noted that the complex is now entering the second phase of its development. In the first phase, it has already achieved a considerable degree of self-reliance in overhauling of several categories of aircraft. He thanked China for its assistance in setting up the rebuild factory at the aeronautical complex.